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WITH A SUPPLEMENT, } STAMPED, 6D.  
FIVEPENCE }



SHOW OF SPRING FLOWERS IN THE BOTANIC GARDENS, REGENT'S PARK.  
SEE PAGE 384.



## FRANCE.

Few passages of contemporary history are more worthy of attentive study than the process by which Imperial France is passing from an absolutist to a constitutional form of political organisation. As it advances it turns up a marvellous variety of facts illustrative of the possible inconveniences that may arise out of a rigid and strictly philosophical addiction to logical, in preference to practical, methods of proceeding. The Emperor—possibly guided to his conclusions by a sagacious forecast of the future of his dynasty, probably yielding to the demand made upon him by his Ministry—has once more initiated organic changes of a liberal character, by means of which he seeks to adapt the actual machinery of the Constitution to what he conceives to be the wishes of the country. No one can deny that the object is greatly to be desired. In fact, none but "irreconcilable" Imperialists, on the one hand, and Republicans on the other—an extremely small section of the nation even when united—do deny it. The Emperor, the Senate, the Corps Législatif, the Ministry, and the people are ostensibly agreed as to the propriety and expediency of making the fundamental alterations which have been suggested from the Throne. And yet it is curious to observe how each of these parties seems so intent upon proceeding in a particular logical order in effecting the change as to endanger the realisation of its substance. Louis Napoleon and the Senate, which he may be said to have invented as well as nominated, regards the substitution of Parliamentary for essentially autocratic Government—so far at least as it necessitates either an extinction or serious modification of the bases of the Constitution—as an undertaking which, when completed by the constituent authority, ought to be submitted by means of a plebiscite to the ratification of the people. The Corps Législatif is indignant because it will have no share in the act by which the Senate will finally surrender its exclusive constituent power, and by which the domain of legislative authority will be indefinitely broadened. And the Ministry, which might make its appeal to universal suffrage by a general election, with a view to a national recognition of recent reforms—or perhaps we might more correctly say, of contemplated reforms—concurs with the Emperor and the Senate in deeming it indispensable to undo by a plebiscite what, eighteen years ago, by a plebiscite was done.

It is certainly an embarrassing and somewhat humiliating position for the Corps Législatif, but it is so in form and sentiment only. All the great powers of the empire, except the Representative Chamber, will have a hand in the reforms about to be instituted. The Sovereign, the Senate, and the people will unite in conducting France into a constitutional system of rule; and the Corps Législatif will not even be employed as a train-bearer in the State ceremony. If the exclusion had resulted from the will of either the Emperor, his Cabinet, or the Senate *pro re nata*, it might well have been regarded as an intolerable insult. But such has not been the case. It is due to the original constitution of 1852, which was framed upon general abstract principles, and in presence of no such emergency as the present. The slight, consequently, is accidental, not intended. But this is not all. The Corps Législatif is the only estate of the empire that will largely profit by the contemplated alterations in the Constitution. The Emperor will surrender his personal rule for a Parliamentary one. The Senate will lose its rights and functions as a constituent body, and will take the humbler shape of a second chamber of legislation. The Corps Législatif will be elevated to real political supremacy. To it the Minister of State will be responsible. In its hands, and under its exclusive control, will be the purse of the nation. *Primus inter pares* will be its position henceforth. Why should it resent as an affront its not being permitted to officiate at its own exaltation? He who gets the oyster may surely be content to part with the shells. The Senatus Consultum, now under deliberation, and even the plebiscite which it is determined shall immediately follow its adoption, are virtually the formalities whereby the representative principle is to be lifted into superiority to the self-authoritative principle in the future government of France. It would be worse than childish to put in peril what is so desired as an end for the purpose of showing contempt of what happens to be the technical means of effecting it.

Let us look for a moment at the Constitution as it will be, should the Senate, as is most likely, embody in a Senatus Consultum the reforms suggested by M. Ollivier and adopted by the Emperor. Of course, the Napoleonic dynasty is placed upon a secure basis, and the succession to the throne is provided for; but, in other respects, the new Constitution will be as much in advance of that of 1852 as Monarchy surrounded by institutional limitations is in advance of despotic Monarchy. The Government of France will be vested in the Emperor, as in this country it vests in the Sovereign; but it will be exercised in concurrence with his Ministers, the Council of State, the Senate, and the Corps Législatif. His prerogative is defined, and his responsibility to the French people is affirmed. The responsibility also of his Ministers, and their eligibility to the members of either House, are sanctioned. The Senate, however, is called upon to perform "the happy dispatch," not indeed as an estate of the empire, but as constituent assembly. It is to descend as decorously as it can to a position analogous to that of

the House of Lords in this country, leaving the Corps Législatif to exercise the special powers and discharge the functions of a House of Commons. Now these changes amount, in fact, to a revolution—to a revolution quite as great as ours of 1688, which we call "glorious," and which has borne such precious fruits for the English people. There is every promise of its being pacifically wrought out, unless there should be any violent disturbance of progress by the Extreme Left. All danger on this score, however, has been disposed of, we trust, by the late vote of the Corps Législatif on M. de Choiseul's interpellation on the plebiscite. The resolution adopted by 227 votes to 43 is decisive—"That the Chamber, after having heard the declarations of the Ministry, and being confident of the latter's devotion to the Imperial and Parliamentary Government, passes to the order of the day."

It may be thought, not without highly plausible reasons, that the Ollivier Administration evinces more tact in allowing and conducting discussions on barren questions than vigour in pushing on such practical measures as will pave the way to an early general election. We must bear in mind, however, the position of its chief. He is a member of the minority ruling the majority. His Cabinet is, to some extent, a compromise between the Left Centre and the Right. The House which he has to manage was elected by the interposition of official authority to support the personal rule of the Emperor. It cannot be immediately set to work in facilitation of its own dissolution. The hooked salmon is allowed his run of line by the wary angler. The Corps Législatif must be flattered into a persuasion that it is as important a body at this juncture of events as it will no doubt very soon become. These debates on curious interpellations accustom the Government and the House to act together and soothe the irritability which the actual position of things would otherwise excite. After the plebiscite has been taken, Ministers, it is to be hoped, will grapple more unhesitatingly with the practical difficulties they will have to front. The future of France will depend very mainly upon the issue of the next electoral appeal to the country. Just at this moment such an appeal would be premature. But it ought to be made and answered within the current year; and M. Ollivier will have failed to turn to account for his country the rare opportunity within his reach if he does not employ all the influence of his splendid position to secure within a few months a full, free, and fair representation in Parliament of the French people.

## FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

## FRANCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

PARIS, Thursday, April 7.

The political crisis has, of course, been the topic which has occupied the French press, and, in fact, everyone in Paris, during the past week. Councils of Ministers, presided over by the Emperor, were held at the Tuileries on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday morning, to discuss the interpellations concerning the Senatus Consultum; and meetings of the Right and Left Centre were held at the Grand Hôtel and the Hôtel du Louvre on Saturday and Sunday night.

In the sitting of the Chamber on Monday, after a bill had been proposed by the Government authorising the city of Paris to contract a loan of 500 million francs, M. Ollivier announced that the Cabinet was prepared to accept the discussion asked for at once. M. Grévy replied that he and his friends would have preferred to have had the discussion fixed for a later day; but, as the Ministry wished for an immediate debate, he would briefly show why he considered that the new Senatus Consultum made concessions in words rather than in reality. He considered that the constituent power should be restored to the nation, but that that was not what was now proposed. He looked upon a plebiscite as the means of confiscating the national sovereignty. The Senate was not only useless, but it was, moreover, a source of embarrassment. The only course to pursue, in his opinion, was to hand over the constituent power to the Legislative Body until such time as France arrived at the only really logical form of government—the democratic. M. Ollivier, in reply, recapitulated all the Liberal concessions that had been made. As to the plebiscite, it gave to the Government in moments of crisis a force that was of great importance. He was not himself anxious for an appeal to the people, but in the present case he thought that it could not be avoided; and therefore, when the Senate has decided on the proposed changes, they would be submitted to the vote of the people. M. Picard, M. Martel, the Marquis d'Andelarre, and M. Jules Favre also spoke; and, after a division, the discussion was adjourned till the following day.

At the sitting on Tuesday M. de Choiseul and Count de Kératry presented a demand to interpellate the Government, in case it should persist in its idea of issuing a plebiscite. They required, first, that it should submit the said Act to the consideration of the representatives of the country; and, secondly, should insert in it a declaration that the senators were to be chosen by the electors. The adjourned debate on the interpellation concerning the constituent powers was then resumed. Baron Jérôme David strongly supported the intention of presenting a plebiscite, and declared it to be the only means of replacing everything in its proper position and clearing the ground from Parliamentary intrigues; he had rallied frankly to Constitutional government, but he was always ready to pay a fitting tribute to the results of personal power, which had given to France eighteen years of repose, order, and security. M. Pelletan here exclaimed, "Of shame and of crime!" Great tumult followed, and, on his refusing to withdraw the offensive terms, he was formally called to order. M. Gambetta afterwards spoke, and was replied to by M. Ollivier; and, after some observations from M. Jules Simon, the close of the discussion was pronounced. M. Guyot de Montpayroux declared that the whole incident was a piece of juggling; and, on the Marquis de Talhouet objecting to such language, an altercation ensued, and, in the end, the objectionable term was withdrawn. Several orders of the day were presented, but M. Ollivier declared that the Cabinet would

only accept the following:—"The Legislative Body, after having heard the declarations of the Ministry, and confiding in its devotedness to the Imperial and Parliamentary Government, passes to the order of the day." This declaration was signed by the Duke d'Albúfera and others of the Right Centre, and by M. Brame and other deputies of the Left Centre. On a division the numbers were—For, 227; against, 43. In consequence the Legislative Body adopted the order of the day, so disposing of M. Grévy's interpellation.

In the sitting on Wednesday M. de Choiseul asked the Ministry to fix a day for the discussion of his interpellation. M. Emile Ollivier replied that he should ask the Chamber to fix the day at two months hence.

On Friday the senators met in the bureaux to nominate the committee charged to examine the new Senatus Consultum. The discussions are said to have been unusually animated, the bureau of which M. Rouher formed part being that in which the debate was the longest. At the public sittings, which were held on Saturday and Tuesday, under the presidency of M. Rouher, nothing of any particular interest transpired.

Last Friday evening the Emperor and Empress were present at the French Opera to witness the first *reprise* of "Robert le Diable." On Saturday their Majesties stood as sponsors to the youngest son of Count and Countess Welles de Lavalette. They were present at the ceremony in the Imperial pew, but were represented, as is customary on these occasions, by Princess d'Essling and Viscount de Laferrière. On Sunday the Emperor and the Prince Imperial drove in the Bois de Boulogne; and on Tuesday the Emperor, accompanied by the Prince Imperial and a numerous staff, reviewed a large body of troops on the Place du Carrousel.

The horse exhibition at the Palais de l'Industrie was opened on Friday, and was visited in the course of the afternoon by the Prince Imperial and the Minister of Fine Arts.

On Sunday evening a dinner was given by M. Emile Ollivier. Among the guests were the Papal Nuncio; Chevalier Nigra, the Italian Ambassador; Count de Werther, the Prussian Ambassador; M. Grandperret, the public prosecutor in the Prince Pierre Bonaparte trial; M. Prevost-Paradol, M. Guyot de Montpayroux, and M. Emile de Girardin.

The strike at Creuzot continues, in a certain measure, although no further disturbances have taken place. M. Schneider still remains at his factory, and it is rumoured in Paris that he has asked the Emperor to station a body of a thousand troops permanently in the neighbourhood.

Embezzlements to the amount of 3,000,000*fr.*, extending over several years, have been discovered at Rothschild's bank. The culprit, a German named Tassius, has delivered himself up to the police.

Smallpox continues very bad in Paris, in spite of the measures taken by the municipal authorities to facilitate vaccination in every quarter of the capital. One of its latest victims is Baron de Werther, the Prussian Ambassador.

The first number of a new daily paper, entitled *Le Concorde*, belonging to the brother of Father Hyacinthe, was issued here last Friday.

## SPAIN.

General Prim, having sprained his foot, has reopened an old wound, and been compelled to take to his bed.

A vote of censure, carried by 78 votes to 75, against the Minister of Public Instruction, for intending to suppress religious education in schools, has been passed in the Cortes, inducing, for the time, a kind of crisis. The remaining clauses of the Public Safety Law have been adopted. A great sensation was created at Saturday's sitting by the appearance of a Republican deputy who had recently been condemned to death. After much resistance, he was persuaded by his friends to leave the Chamber. The Cortes is discussing the Military Contingent Bill, which calls out 40,000 men.

Popular demonstrations have taken place against the conscription. There has been considerable rising, and in some places blood has been shed; but the troops have everywhere remained loyal to the Government.

## PORTUGAL.

The Chambers were opened on Thursday week. The Speech from the Throne announces that friendly relations subsist between Portugal and foreign Powers. Among the measures enumerated as about to be submitted to the Chambers this Session is a bill establishing Ministerial responsibility. Tranquillity prevails throughout the kingdom.

## ITALY.

Prince Humbert and Princess Margherita left Naples yesterday week. They were accompanied to the station by an immense crowd, and were warmly cheered.

Signor Minghetti has proposed the appointment of four Committees instead of one to examine the financial bills of the Government. This proposal has been accepted by the Ministry, and the Chamber of Deputies has voted its adoption by 163 against 112 votes.

## AUSTRO-HUNGARY.

On Thursday thirty Poles and twelve Slavones, Bukovinians, and Istrians, formally resigned their seats in the Reichsrath; the motives adduced being their conviction that the present Government and the Lower Chamber will never satisfy the just demands of their nationalities. Immediately after the close of the sitting a Council of Ministers was held to discuss the position of affairs which had arisen, and it was unanimously resolved to ask the Emperor to sanction the dissolution of those Diets the deputies from which had resigned their seats in the Reichsrath, and to make their continuance in office dependent upon his Majesty's reply. As the Emperor declined to do this, the Cis-Leithan Ministry (not the Imperial Government, of which Count Beust is the head) have resigned; and Count Potocki, a former Minister of Agriculture, has been charged with the formation of a new Cabinet.

We learn from Pesth that M. de Longay, the Minister of Finance, will leave for Vienna after the Easter holidays, and that M. Kerkapögi is designated as his successor. Count Miko de Hidveg, Minister of Public Works, and M. de Gorove, Minister of Commerce, have resigned. At a conference of members of the Deak party it has been agreed to accept the settlement of the military frontier question.

## GREECE.

The elections for members of the municipalities throughout the kingdom, though accompanied by considerable excitement, terminated, on Sunday night, without any disturbance of public order.

Our Minister at Athens has protested against the terms of the recently concluded loan for 9,000,000 drachmas. He reminds the Hellenic Government that the loan guaranteed by the three protecting Powers is entitled to preference payment.

## AMERICA.

President Grant has sent a special message to Congress on the subject of the enfranchisement of the negroes. Four millions of voters, he states, have been added to the electoral body, and he urges the coloured people to prove themselves worthy of the privilege which has been extended to them.



The reform, he also points out, imposes special obligations upon Congress and upon the white population generally. It becomes the duty of all to promote and encourage popular education, so that those who have been invested with political rights may acquire the knowledge requisite for an intelligent discharge of their duties as citizens of a free country.

The Senate has adopted the resolution of the House of Representatives instructing the Secretary of the Navy to order an inquiry into the collision between the *Bombay* and the *Oneida*, with special reference, of course, to Mr. Eyre's conduct in continuing his voyage without taking steps to satisfy himself as to the extent to which the American corvette had been damaged. The Senate, by forty-one votes against twelve, has admitted General Ames, late military commander of Mississippi, to a seat as senator from that State.

The members of the Congressional delegation from Texas have been admitted to their seats in the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The Democrats elected, on Monday, Mr. English Governor of Connecticut by a majority of 1000 votes over Mr. Jewell, the Republican candidate for re-election. The Republican party, however, retain a majority, though diminished, in the State Legislature.

## CANADA.

The Canadian Government has been forewarned by Mr. Thornton, our Minister at Washington, of an intended Fenian raid along the whole Canadian frontier on the 15th inst. The telegram making this announcement adds that the Canadian authorities are quite prepared to deal with such a movement if it be attempted.

In the Dominion Parliament there has been a warm debate on financial matters, arising out of a subsidy granted to the Nova Scotian Government. Finally, a resolution was carried that the Dominion Parliament possesses absolute control over the public funds, and that no subsidy should be voted in future to the Government of any province except those which have been granted by existing Acts.

The Red River settlers are said to be kept in a state of terror by the insurgent Rielle and his armed followers.

## INDIA.

Sir Richard Temple made his Budget statement to the Council at Calcutta on Saturday last. It appears from this statement that the working of the railways left a balance against the Government in 1868-9 of £2,774,030; for 1869-70 this balance was only £625,594; and in the coming year it is estimated there will be a surplus of £163,440. In order to produce the much-desired equilibrium in Indian finance some large reductions are proposed, including £734,551 in the army expenditure, and over a million in the ordinary outlay on public works as compared with last year. The only change in taxation is that the income tax is to be raised from 1½ to 3½ per cent. The addition to the Indian debt during last year was four millions and a quarter sterling. Of this sum, however, a large amount yet remains to be expended on public works. The cash balances amounted to £13,500,000. Sir Richard Temple proposes to raise a loan for £2,000,000 in England.

Lieutenant-General Sir W. R. Mansfield made a farewell speech in the Indian Council, last Saturday, in which he emphatically declared that the British forces in India should not be further reduced.

General Gordon has been suspended from the command of the Poonah division by the Government of Bombay.

The railway between Calcutta and Bombay was opened for through traffic on Saturday last.

The suttee has not altogether disappeared in India. A widow recently immolated herself at Jounpore. The authorities were prompt in their punishment of those who were accessory to the performance of the horrible rite. Several of the woman's relatives and the villagers who looked on were sentenced to terms of imprisonment varying from seven to three years.

General Sageni has been inaugurated as President of the Haytian Republic for four years.

Advices from Venezuela announce that the revolution is extending, and that the insurgents under Blanco are advancing upon Caracas.

A Tripoli (Barbary) letter reports the fall of a monster aerolite in the neighbourhood of Mourzouk, weighing, it is said, nearly 5000 lb.

The next mails for Australia will be dispatched from London, via Southampton, on the morning of Saturday, April 16; via Marseilles, on the evening of Friday, April 22.

The packets of the Messageries Impériales conveying mails for China, Japan, and Mauritius, which have heretofore left Marseilles every fourth Saturday, will, on and after April 17 next, start on the morning of every fourth Sunday.

The *Indépendance Belge* announces that the commission appointed to organise the display of specimens of Belgian handicraft at the London Exhibition of 1871 have abandoned the idea of having Belgium represented.

The people of Berne have, by a large majority, approved the decision of the Federal Council to pay a subvention of a million francs towards the completion of the St. Gothard Railway.

Miss Rye sends home a very cheering account of the success of her "Home" in Canada for poor English girls. Of the seventy children she took out in October, not one is now without a home, and she has "one hundred more and similarly good homes for as many more children as soon as she can return to England to fetch them."

There are 146 religious denominations in Great Britain, the names of which have been given in to the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

The Dundee harbour trustees have sanctioned an expenditure not exceeding £60,000 on a new dredger; and of £36,200 on a new graving dock.

On St. Patrick's Day the Archbishop of Dublin consecrated a church, which had been built near the railway station at Killock, at a cost of about £2200, of which £1200 was the gift of Mr. William Coates.

The annual changes of quarters of the Household Cavalry Brigade were made on Wednesday. The 1st Life Guards removed from Regent's Park Barracks to Knightsbridge and Hyde Park Barracks; the 2nd Life Guards, from Hyde Park to Windsor; and the Royal Horse Guards, from Windsor to Regent's Park Barracks.

The Lords of the Treasury having certified to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt that the actual surplus revenue of the United Kingdom beyond the expenditure for the year ended Dec. 31 amounted to £254,982, the Commissioners give notice that £63,745, being one-fourth part of the surplus, will be applied, in the quarter ending June 30, towards the reduction of the National Debt.

## IRELAND.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

Mullingar, Westmeath, April 7.

"Rory of the Hills"—of counties Westmeath and Longford, at any rate—is believed to be caught at last, and proves to be, of all men, a tailor! with, however, a remarkably fierce-looking moustache. It seems that a few days since an armed party of three men presented themselves at the house of Mrs. Jackson, living at Collogue, near Edgeworthstown, about fifteen miles from here, and demanded to see her son Joseph. On finding he was away from home, they withdrew; first of all, however, discharging one of their pistols through the window into a room, according to the customary practice. Young Jackson, who was at a neighbour's house, on hearing the report, ran off home, but was stopped on the way by the same party, who informed him that they had made a long journey for the purpose of warning him not to "put out" a widow and orphan who had been served with notice of ejectment, and cautioning him that the consequences would be serious if they had to present themselves to him a second time. They then made off; and at half-past five the following morning the police arrested three individuals, one of whom was known to have been out all night and was at once identified as the leader of the party. The mob, it is said, showed great sympathy for "Rory" while he was being removed from the police barrack, attended by an armed guard, to Longford Gaol.

However much some of the more unreasonable among the Irish people may condemn the Church and Land Bills for not going far enough, and vent their abuse against the best friend that Ireland ever had amongst English statesmen, there can be no question but that, with the exception of certain newspapers and the particular class against whom the much-abused Peace Preservation Act is directed, the measure is generally popular in the counties of Meath, Cavan, and Westmeath, which I have recently traversed. Not a man that I have spoken to in either county with a decent coat upon his back but welcomed the bill while regretting the necessity for such a piece of legislation, which they rightly enough felt to be humiliating to the last degree to all well-disposed Irishmen.

The county of Meath is the principal grazing district of Ireland, its return of live stock last year being 400,000 head, of which there were four head of cattle and six sheep against three human beings, including all the population of the towns, to every fifteen acres of its entire area. You may drive across it in certain directions for a whole day, through extensive tracts of splendid pasture, and meet with only occasional small patches of land under tillage, sometimes by the plough, but more frequently by the spade. One lights on no dairy farms among these broad pastures, which are simply rich grazing-grounds for stock, the best of them being commonly held by the landowners themselves, and the remainder by the more substantial farmers, while only the inferior soils, reclaimed bog and the like, fall to the lot of the peasantry. As a consequence of this condition of things, the demand for agricultural labour is not only trifling, but uncertain and never continuous, while wages are correspondingly low. The poor-law inspectors, in their recent report, instance 7s. per week as the average rate of wages throughout Meath, taking the year round; but numerous inquiries instituted over the western half of the county lead one to believe 6s. to be the customary rate. Sometimes a cabin is thrown in rent-free, and in rare instances an infinitesimal patch of poor land accompanies it; but more frequently an annual rental of from 20s. to 30s. is exacted from the tenant. At this particular season of the year, when labour is largely in demand, a couple of shillings a day is the ordinary rate of wage; but this exceptional scale is maintained only for a very short time. As the cost of sustenance per head in the county poorhouses amounts to 3s. 1½d. weekly, it follows that a married labouring man, with a family of children all too young for field-work—and there is no other kind of employment open to them—must have a fearfully hard struggle to live. Coupling this with the recognised fact of a thorough want of sympathy on the part of the gentry of the county with the condition of the peasantry, and the feeling current among the latter that the land and the fulness thereof are for the cattle rather than for themselves—cattle, too, which they know are destined for the "Saxon"—it is hardly matter for surprise that "they are far from contented, and are never likely to be so, all of them hoping some day to go to America."

So much for the general condition of the county of Meath, which has not only a police post in each of its principal villages, but has already one of its poorhouses partially converted into barracks for soldiery. Its population has considerably decreased of late years, and its half dozen towns all present unmistakable appearances of decay. In the doorway of the principal hotel in the principal town of the county one found five dirty, ragged beggar-women installed, quite as though it were their accustomed quarters. Those who wish to know how dirty and ragged a genuine Irish beggar-woman really can be need go no further than Navan for a specimen. The coffee-room window of the hotel commanded a view of the two principal streets, with half a dozen dilapidated, unoccupied, wretched-looking tenements at their point of junction. This corner was the privileged lounging-ground of all the lazy ruffians in the place, and no fouler and lazier are to be found in the county of Meath. There is not a single shop with the smallest pretensions in Navan, which, in spite of the considerable falling off in its population, still numbers close upon 4000 inhabitants. At Trim—which one cannot help associating with Tristram Shandy, or with Uncle Toby, rather—and which is the assize town of Meath, there is only a single hotel; still, it is unique: you sit on dirt, you eat off dirt, and you sleep in dirt. Here the use of a toothbrush-tray was evidently unknown, for one found it invariably served for a soap-dish. A clothes-brush having been asked for, which, after half an hour's hunt, was at length found, "Faith!" observed Biddy, with the most charming naïveté, "now, what's the use of taking off the dirt, for sure it will be coming on again?"

It was fair-day when we were at Trim, and the Courthouse was crowded in anticipation of a case being called on with reference to the sending of three threatening letters, believed to have been written by a national schoolmaster of Kildrillo to a large landowner of the neighbourhood, who is resident in Dublin. The hearing, however, was postponed, and there was nothing left for one but to betake oneself to the pig quarter of the fair, which certainly furnished a full share of amusement. I will, however, defer a description of the scene until it can accompany the clever characteristic sketch made by my talented associate, Mr. J. Procter.

It was at Kells that one first heard the rumour of the murderous assault upon Mr. Crawford, at Killallen; and half an hour afterwards we were on our way to the spot, which lies at almost the western extremity of the county, and touches the borders of Westmeath. The road skirts the seat of Mr. Nicholson, whose mansion and grounds are alike guarded by armed constabulary, and runs past the anything but unfre-

quented spot where this gentleman was fired at last autumn, when he owed his life solely to the precipitancy of the assassins, whose bullets slew the unfortunate coachman that was driving him home. Just before entering the village of Kilskeer one passes a stone cross, in the massive pedestal of which a white marble tablet is inserted, setting forth that it was erected in memory of a victim of Ribbonism. A little further on the road branches off to the left, and winds through a hilly, wild-looking country, sparsely timbered and with frequent patches of black bog in the lowlands. Portions of this have been reclaimed, and are now under cultivation by a morose-looking peasantry, who scowl at you as you drive past. One or two small stone farmhouses are encountered at intervals of a mile or more apart; but isolated mud cabins, some of which are unoccupied and others in ruins, are the rule. The women and few children of whom one catches sight at the doorways of these miserable tenements are more abjectly wretched in their appearance than the same class in other parts of the county. As for young men, there are said to be none, all of them emigrating the moment they have the means of doing so. It is in this forbidding-looking district that Crawford's farm of sixty-four acres in all, a portion of which is his own fee simple, is situated. He was evidently a thriving man, having just built a substantial stone house, into which he was on the eve of removing from the miserable-looking little cabin which he now occupies, and through the kitchen window of which he was fired at just as he had taken his seat in the chimney corner shortly after eight o'clock on the evening of Sunday, the 27th ult. A couple of rudely-formed leaden pellets, striking him in profile, passed clean through his face, wounding him, it is thought, beyond hope of recovery; while other pellets hit him in different parts of the body.

Crawford, who is a large, powerful, middle-aged man, had only just returned indoors after tending his cattle for the night, during which time the assassin had evidently been watching him, hesitating to fire, however, from fear of missing his man and being scoured by him before he could make his escape. None of the members of the wounded man's family can suggest the slightest motive for his being fired at, and his neighbours all speak of him as a thoroughly good-natured, inoffensive person, who did no harm to anybody. The police, however, had their eye on a man, whom they have arrested, and who had been dispossessed of his farm, by Crawford's father, acting as agent for a Captain Maguire, for non-payment of rent. This, however, occurred some time ago; and Crawford's father has since died, and the agency been transferred to the son.

Reilly's case is even more inexplicable than that of Crawford. He neither owns land himself nor acts as agent for anyone, but simply rents about a couple of hundred acres which have been, he told me, in the occupation of his family, as tenant-farmers, for upwards of a hundred years. The grand grievance of the Meath peasantry is, that all the land is being converted into pasture, and that every year less and less is turned up by either spade or plough, and that, consequently, there is continually decreasing employment for them. I therefore inquired of Reilly whether he had an undue proportion of his land in grass or had much arable land lying fallow. The answer I received was, that he held two farms, one of sixty acres, which was exclusively a grazing farm consisting of land that had never been turned up by the plough, and the other of about 140 acres, of which forty acres were arable. He said that he farmed the land precisely as his father had done before him, and employed the same number of men as he had always done. He had received a heavy charge of duck-shot in the face while he was quietly engaged in reading the newspaper, but, owing to the gun having been held at too great a distance from the window through which it was discharged, the wounds were, fortunately, little else than surface ones; and I found the gallant old man out in the fields superintending his ploughmen at work. It was a few minutes after eight o'clock on Saturday night when he was fired at, and the evening previously it seems that a party of four Cavan men, as Reilly believed them to be, came and carried off his gun, serving several of his neighbours in the same way. Whether the party who possessed themselves of the gun were in any way connected with the assault of the subsequent night, or whether this was the result of private vengeance indulged in the first opportunity after it became known that he had no arms in his possession, Reilly was unable to surmise.

Just as was the case at Crawford's place, there was no absence of neighbouring houses and cabins where the report must have been distinctly heard, and the occupants of which, one cannot help thinking, might have secured the assailants had they turned out with a will; but, as the sergeant of constabulary observed to us, not an individual among them will render the smallest aid, many from sympathy with the perpetrators of the crime, the remainder through fear of incurring their vengeance. "We have not a friend," said he, "among the whole of the small farmers or the peasantry for miles round." In this case the report was actually heard by two of the police who hastened to the house, but neither they nor other constables who scoured the neighbourhood could meet with the slightest trace of the assailant.

The district can hardly be a desirable one to dwell in. At Virginia, four miles distant, one found that the three principal people in the place had been threatened in the prevalent fashion—graves had been dug for them in their fields, and warning notices stuck beside them demanding certain grass lands to be parcelled out and let to the poor for tillage. One of the three—the landlord of the capital hotel at Virginia, where there is a beautiful lake six miles in length, and a charming country in the environs—had been favoured with a verbal warning in addition while seated on the mail-car, which was just quitting the railway station, about half-past seven o'clock at night, on its way to Virginia. He has, however, made up his mind to disregard both Rory's warnings, and to trust to the loaded revolver which he always carries about with him.

It was within sight of Reilly's place that the agent of some large landowner in the district was stopped on the afternoon of the day on which the guns of Reilly and others were carried off, in all probability by the same party, as the four men who waylaid him some few hours previously to the raid were unprovided with arms. This gentleman, whose name I suppress at his own request, invariably drives about the country with a couple of loaded revolvers in his pocket, and, from his known determination, will, I am convinced, give a good account of any of Rory's band who may venture to come to close quarters with him. It was within sight, too, of Reilly's farm that, on a Sunday evening some few weeks since, an old man, a little general-shop keeper of the neighbourhood, was savagely beaten in his own house by a party of thirty men. Like all the other sufferers, he can suggest no motive for the brutal assault of which he was the object, and neither dare he, if he could, identify any of the men who took part in it.

[Some illustrations sent with this letter will appear in our next Number.]



## MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

## AT THE SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM.

There are several different collections of foreign or ancient musical instruments, some presented or purchased, others lent by their private owners, to be seen at the South Kensington Museum of the Science and Art Education Department. The descriptive catalogue, by Mr. Carl Engel, with its interesting short essays on the historical and scientific aspects of this subject, is worthy of perusal, as the articles mentioned are worthy of inspection. One of the special collections, lent by Mr. Engel, consists of sixty articles, the greater part of which are specimens of various kinds of stringed instruments formerly used in Europe, some beautifully shaped and decorated; while he also contributes a few barbaric contrivances from Africa and Eastern Asia. The Earl of Warwick sends a boxwood violin, carved with woodland scenes, bearing the date of 1578, which was given by Queen Elizabeth to the Earl of Leicester, and which our present Queen examined with particular interest when she visited the museum a fortnight ago. Handel's own harpsicord, made at Antwerp in 1651, and bequeathed by him in 1750 to one of his English friends, has been presented to the museum by Messrs. Broadwood. Several other donors or lenders have added to the exhibition.

We engrave a page of Illustrations, to be followed by another selection from these curious objects. The mountain horn, of wood, bound with brass, is nearly 8 ft. long, and is one of those used by the Alpine herdsmen of Switzerland, and likewise in Sweden, to give signals to each other, or to call their cattle together, as well as to beguile their leisure with pastoral music. The serinette, or French bird-organ, was employed by ladies to teach airs to their little singing-birds, *serins* or finches; this one is of the seventeenth century, 11 in. by 8 in. or 9 in., made of beech-wood, veneered with satin-wood, and inlaid with marquetry of coloured woods representing musical instruments and foliage. The dulcimer is Italian, with twenty-six sets of metal strings, to be played with two little hammers. The machete, or small guitar, shaped like a fish, is a Portuguese instrument, from Madeira. The quinterna, or chiterna, made at Hamburg in 1539, is ornamented with tortoise-shell, ivory figures, and precious stones; it has ten strings of catgut. The next is an Italian guitar of the sixteenth century, which seems to have been mounted with five sets of strings, four sets having three strings each, and one set having four strings, each set tuned in unison; the wood is inlaid with ivory, ebony, and mother-of-pearl. The tortoise-shell flauto dolce, or flageolet, belonged to the late illustrious composer Rossini; it is of the seventeenth century. The French vielle, which we should call a hurdy-gurdy, bears the date of 1550, and the monograms of Catherine de Medici and of Henri II., with the Royal arms of France; it has ten ivory keys and six tuning pegs; it is decorated, in black outline, with hunting-scenes and arabesques. The cornetto curvo, in Germany called zinken, with six finger-holes on one side, and one hole, for the thumb of the left hand, on the other, was commonly used by town bands and church choristers; this one is of ivory, but they were often of wood, covered with black leather.

Our Illustration marked K represents the boxwood violin, bearing the arms of Queen Elizabeth and the Earl of Leicester engraved in silver on its finger-board, to which we have referred. It is described both by Hawkins and Burney, in their books on the history of music, having belonged to the Duke of Dorset, at the sale of whose furniture it was bought by Mr. Bremner, in the Strand. It is two feet long from the extremity of the tail-pin to the dragon's head, and carved with a woodman cutting at the fallen branches of an oak, and with another man beating down acorns for hogs to eat, besides much foliage and other ornamentation. From the thickness of the wood and from its encumbrance with these decorations, the tone of the violin is but dull and sluggish; and the neck, being too thick for the hand to grasp, has a hole for the player's thumb, by which the hand is so confined that the range of fiddling performance must be very limited. Upon the nut which fastens the tail-piece is the date 1578, with the initials J. P., which may be those of J. Pemberton, a maker of some celebrity at that time. Some antiquaries, however, think

the carving is very much older, and that it formed part of another violin made long before.

The Venetian lute, manufactured about 1550 by Magnus Tieffenbrucker there, had catgut strings to be twanged with the fingers; it belongs to Mr. Engel's collection, which contains one, by Lucas Maler, 450 years old, but in good preservation, and with a fine mellow tone. The instrument called a harp-lute, with twelve strings, was invented by Edward Light, of London, about seventy years ago, and was designed for accompanying vocal music, but never enjoyed much public favour. The viol di bordone, or baryton violin, had six or seven catgut strings and twenty, thirty, or forty sympathetic strings of metal placed below. The upper strings were played on with a bow, when the lower strings would sound in unison, or in octaves, without being touched, but they were also

with thin metal springs, by which the metal strings were struck, when the corresponding keys were touched by the fingers of the player. In the clavichord, on the contrary, which was a German instrument, the strings were pressed from below by tangents or metal pins, rising with the depression of the keys on the fingerboard. It is now almost entirely superseded by the pianoforte, "but may still occasionally be met with in the house of the German village schoolmaster, or of the country parson."

The remaining articles shown in our Illustration are two kits, or small fiddles, one being Italian, of the date 1600; and the other English, of the old kind named a sordine, or pochette, which gentlemen used to carry in their pockets to a singing-party, for the correct intoning of madrigals, glees, and catches; with two pair of modern castanets, one ivory and the other ebony, which require no special notice.

### THE SIERRA NEVADA OF AMERICA.

Several Illustrations of the scenery of the Utah and Nevada territories along the line of the Central Pacific and Pacific Union Railways, which now afford uninterrupted communication between the Atlantic States and California, have been published in this Journal. They were sent us by Mr. F. Whympere, consisting partly of his own sketches, partly of the photographs of Captain Russell, with which he had permission to deal in this manner. The one now engraved is a View of the valley of the Sierra, through which the railway passes, near Emigrant Gap. Its mighty walls of rock, the lower parts of which are fringed with scattered forests of pine, have a most forbidding aspect; but the grassy pastures of the mountain valley are better than the sterile plains of the lower country, which is a dreary and desolate region in Nevada territory, overgrown with wild sage-bushes and other coarse weeds. The mineral riches of this district are indeed beyond calculation—gold, silver, quicksilver, iron, coal, and salt being found to exist here in great abundance. It will hereafter become an important State of the Union.

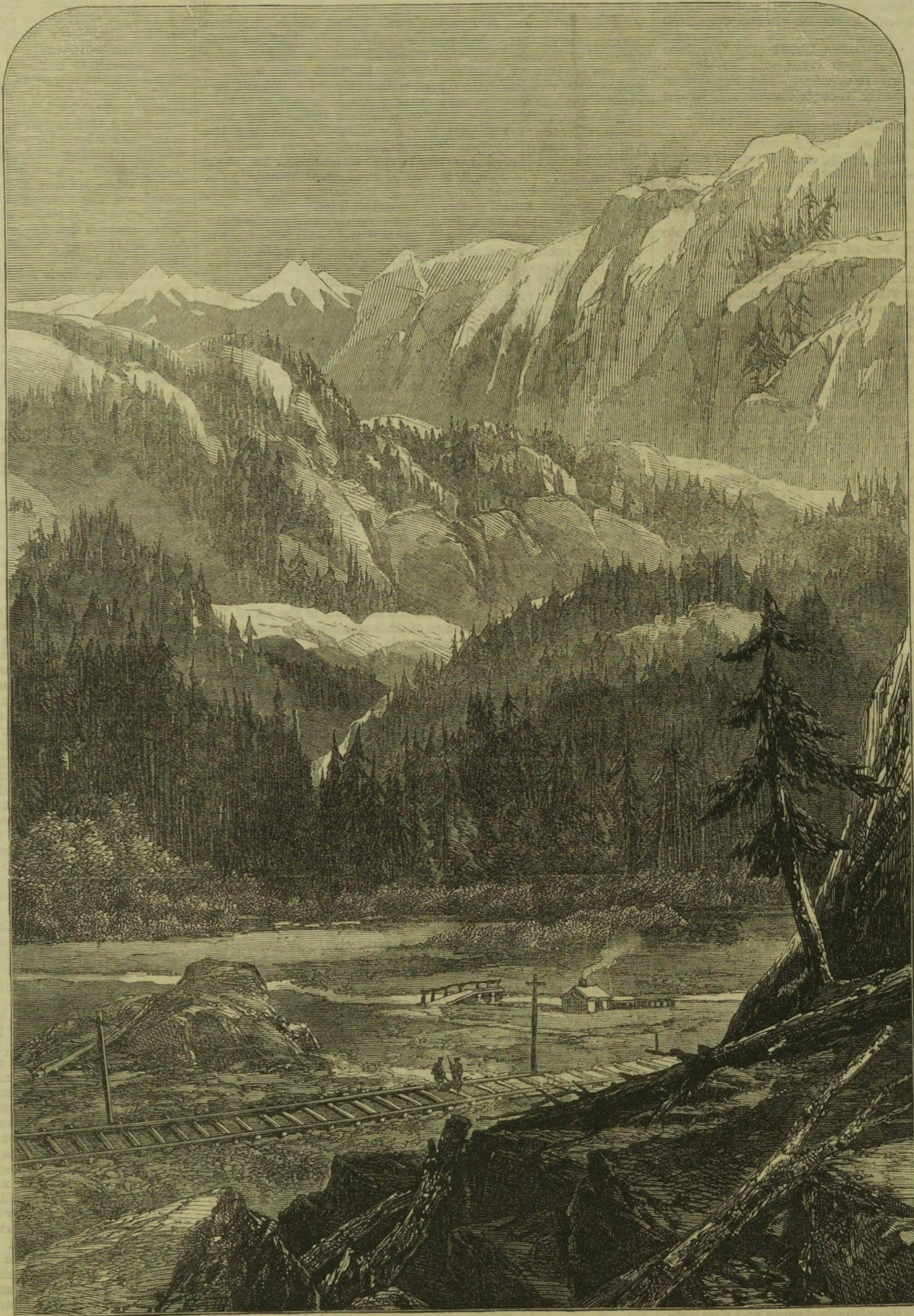
Notice was lately taken of the process of preserving Australian cooked beef and mutton in air-tight tin cans, from which the air has been expelled by the steam generated in boiling the meat; and we bore testimony to the good flavour and nourishing qualities of some which is sold in London at sevenpence a pound, free from bone, in 4 lb. and 6 lb. tin cans, imported from Sydney and Melbourne. The following extract of a private letter from Timaru, in the province of Canterbury, New Zealand, dated Jan. 16, shows that vast quantities of good mutton are there allowed to go to waste for want of a market:—"I will tell you now about the latest improvement in our premises. We have a large boiler made of iron, into which we put eighty sheep, and boil them down, for their tallow alone, by steam. There is a force-pump at the side of it; and when they are boiled we let the steam off and

pump in water to raise the tallow, which runs off into a great cooler, and from there into casks." It is surely high time that the meat-preserving process should be applied in all our southern colonies, where the flocks of sheep are counted by tens of thousands, and in a dry season are not worth their keep.

The long-expected list of naval officers whose position in the service is affected by Mr. Childers's scheme of retirement has been published. Thirty-five admirals and a large number of captains and other officers have retired.

### THE BRITISH INDIAN SUBMARINE TELEGRAPH.

The successful completion of the line of submarine telegraph from Bombay to Suez has been announced in a former publication. We have received from Dr. E. W. James, civil surgeon to the British station at Aden, several photographs of the incidents connected with the landing of the cable there. The Great Eastern, attended by the Chiltern, both under command of Captain Halpin, lay at Bombay, to take in coal, from Jan. 28 to Feb. 14; but the Bombay shore-end of the cable, ten miles in length, was laid by the Chiltern on

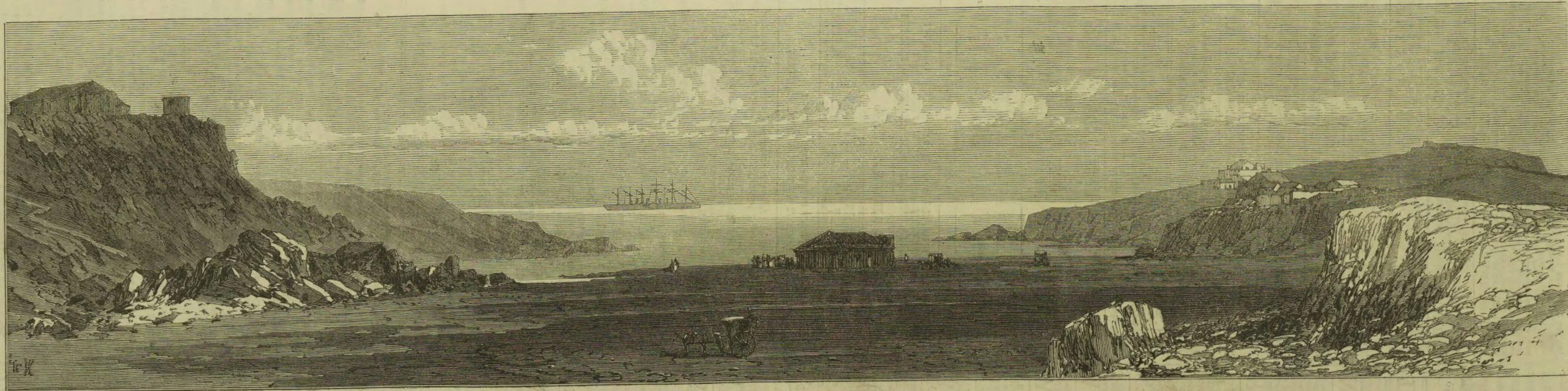


CENTRAL PACIFIC RAILWAY OF AMERICA: VALLEY IN THE SIERRA NEVADA.

twanged occasionally with the left-hand thumb. The tone produced is soft and very expressive, but rather tremulous. Haydn wrote a series of pieces for this instrument by order of Prince Esterhazy, who used to play it; and it was played at concerts in London, about 1776, by Anton Lidl, of Vienna. The specimen in the museum was made by Tielke, of Hamburg, in 1686. It is carved with gilt negroes and lions' heads.

The Italian spinet, made by Annibale Rosso, of Milan, in 1577, was purchased at the Paris Exhibition for £1200. It is 4 ft. 9½ in. long, of wood and ivory, set with nearly 2000 precious stones, turquoises, rubies and garnets, pearls, sapphires, emeralds, amethysts, topazes, agates and jaspers, lapis lazuli, and others. The shape of this instrument is like the dulcimer; it is open at the top, and fitted with strings, to the range of four octaves and a semitone, having one string for each tone. It has a circular sound-hole in the middle of the sound-board. There is a mention of this particular spinet in an old Italian book called "La Nobiltà di Milano," which states that it was bought for 500 scudi, or crowns, by Signor Carlo Trivulzio, and that it was much admired. The spinet, the virginal, and the harpsichord, differ from the clavichord in the mechanism by which their strings were sounded. They were furnished with small pieces of quill or whalebone attached to strips of wood,



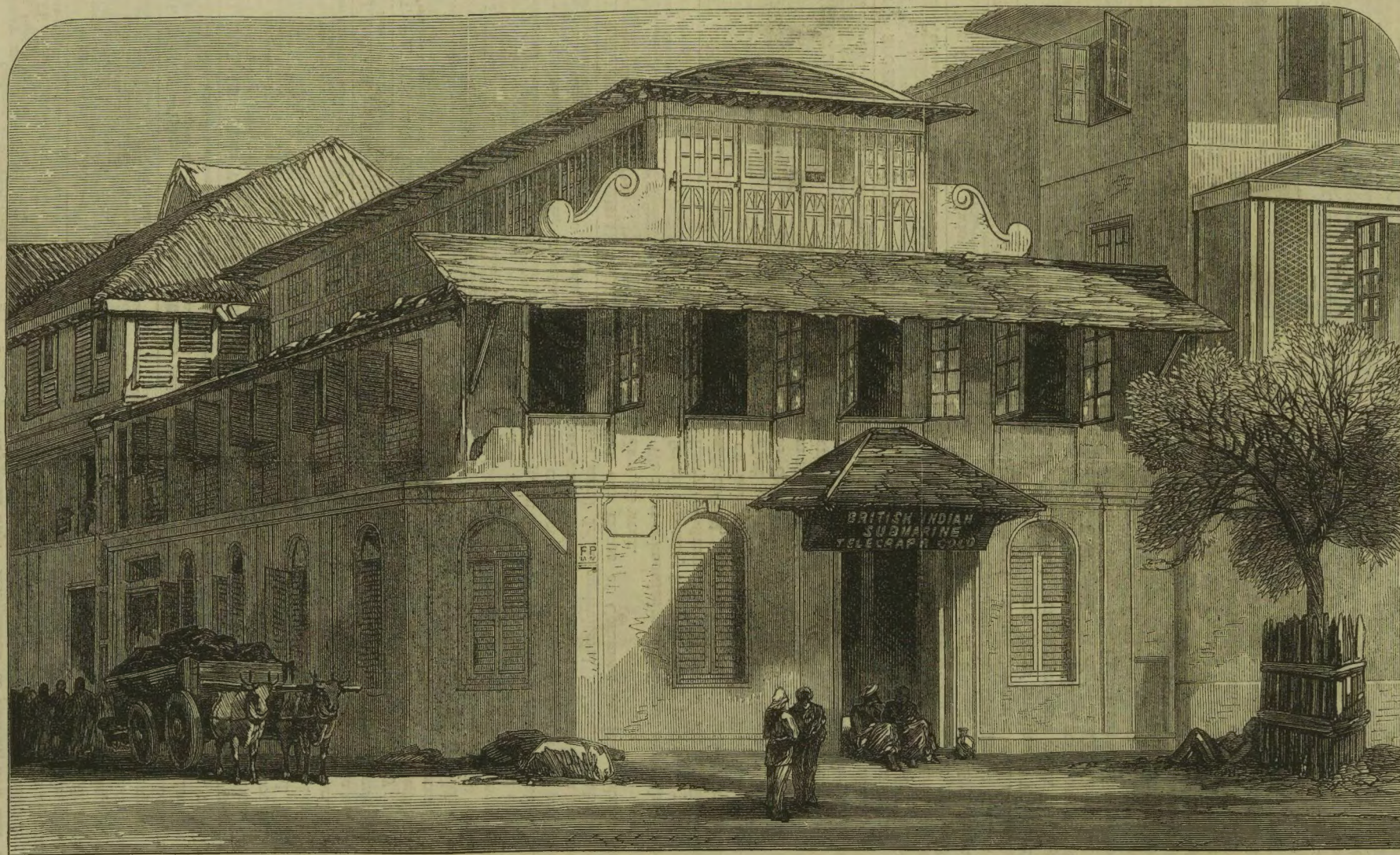


TELEGRAPH BAY, ADEN, WITH THE GREAT EASTERN.

the 7th. The Governor of Bombay, Sir Seymour Fitzgerald, with a distinguished company of Europeans, Parsees, and Hindoos, paid a farewell visit to the ships, and saw the operation of splicing. The Great Eastern laid the main line to Aden, paying out 1750 miles of cable in a distance of 1600 miles, at depths ranging from 900 fathoms to 2200 fathoms, aided by favourable winds from north-north-west to north-north-east, with a calm sea, and only a rolling under-swell. There was no "kink," or hitch of any kind, in passing from the cable stored in the fore tank to that in the main tank, or at any other moment. On the 26th, between five and six in the afternoon, the Great Eastern arrived near Aden, joining the Chiltern, which had gone on that day, before her, twenty-eight miles from that place. A length of intermediate cable, about twenty miles, was spliced to the main line; and the Great Eastern laid it, that night, to within eight miles of the shore, where it was cut and buoyed in forty-fathom water, the sea running high, with a strong current and a gale of wind. The weather was too rough during the next two days for laying the shore end; and it was found, on the 28th, that the cable laid had parted from both its buoys. But the Chiltern picked it up, at half-past six in the evening, and made it once more secure. Next day the electric tests were applied, and the whole line to Bombay was proved to be in perfect condition. The end was then sealed and buoyed, and the remaining two miles were picked up and taken on board as spare cable.

Preparations for landing the shore end were made on board the Great Eastern during the morning, and the work was proceeded with directly the Chiltern returned. The barge into which it had been paid was towed to a little bay, on the shore of which a temporary cable-house had been erected, close to the house which was put up years ago for the old Red Sea cable. The scene at the landing was totally different from that at Bombay.

"Aden is a huge cinder," writes one of our correspondents. "Its lofty volcanic ranges are of a dead red colour, like bricks which have been over-baked. In the



OFFICE OF THE TELEGRAPH COMPANY AT BOMBAY

whole place there is neither leaf nor shrub to break the terrible sterility. Rising abruptly from the water, these jagged mountain summits stand out in a thousand fantastic shapes, as if a raging sea of lava had, when at its wildest, been suddenly bidden to stand still and petrify. At the foot of these, as seen from the sea, a few white houses gleam in the fierce sun. From the cable-house to the water's edge a line of busy figures—native Somalees, with complexions of jet, and whose costume is limited to a black girdle and head-cloth—were scooping out a trench in the hot sand. The Tindals, or foremen, whose dress consists of a shirt, a turban, an unbuttoned waistcoat, and nothing else, urged them on with shrieks and blows; while some Arabian Jews in ragged robes and worked skull-caps, with the long ringlets hanging down each cheek which denote the Pharisee sect, and a few British officers in white undress, from the camp or isthmus station, and two or three Parsee merchants, were assembled as bystanders. The heat was terrible, and we envied the sailors and cable hands whose duty it was to jump from the barge into the sea, and so to bring the end on shore. It was safely landed and brought into the testing-room, without any difficulty, late in the afternoon. Aden is an explosive place, with guns going off at all hours, and to announce various events, from sunrise in camp to the sighting of a steamer from England or India. But it has seldom heard more important salutes than were fired by the Chiltern and the Great Eastern soon after eleven o'clock this morning (March 2) to announce the completion of the splice between the sea-line and the shore end. The two stations of Aden and Bombay were at last united. Messages of congratulation were sent through to Lord Mayo and Sir Seymour Fitzgerald, and the laying of the Red Sea section to Suez commenced the same afternoon."

We have received letters from Suez, describing the completion, on March 8, of the Red Sea portion of the Submarine Telegraph. Some further illustrations will be given.



## BIRTHS.

On the 1st inst., at Newbold Revel, Rugby, the wife of Edward Herbert Wood, Esq., of a son.  
At St. James's Palace, the Duchess of St. Albans, of a son.  
On the 5th inst., at 44, Rutland-gate, Lady Charles Innes Ker, of a son.  
On the 2nd inst., at 26, Onslow-square, Lady Bateman, of a daughter.  
On the 3rd inst., at Ashfield House, Lady S. G. Milbank, of a daughter.

## MARRIAGES.

At Holy Trinity Church, Marylebone, H. B. Kingscote, Esq., Royal Horse Artillery, to Louisa Katharine, eldest daughter of the late Major-General C. W. Bidley, C.B.  
At St. Paul's, Cambridge, S. Waymouth, Esq., Fellow of Queen's College, Cambridge, to Annie, second daughter of J. Smith, Esq., of Pemberton-villa, Trumpington-road, Cambridge.  
At St. Clement Dances, the Rev. P. Bromley, M.A., Worcester College, Oxford, to Dora Lucy, eldest daughter of the Rev. C. A. Baines, M.A., Vicar of St. Peter's, Newcastle-on-Tyne.  
On the 29th ult., at Zion Chapel, Frome, by the Rev. Alfred Rowland, LL.B., William Napier, Esq., ex-Mayor of Carisbrook, Victoria, Australia, to Catherine Mary, second daughter of William Langford, Esq., of 4, West-end Villas, Frome.

## DEATHS.

On the 3rd inst., at his residence, 17, Warwick-road, Malda-hill, Benham George Morison, Esq., late Captain 24th Regiment Bombay Army, aged 52.  
On the 3rd inst., at Lewisham, Maria, relict of Captain Charles Weller, in the 83rd year of her age.  
On the 3rd inst., at 1, Belle Vue, Chelsea, of bronchitis, Gertrude, the infant daughter of Robert Landells, Esq., and Elizabeth Anne, his wife, aged 12 months.  
On the 5th inst., at Gothic House, Clapham-rise, after three days' intense suffering, resulting from a dangerous surgical operation, the Baron William von Andlau, in his 73rd year, to the inexpressible grief of his family and a large circle of friends, who are kindly requested to accept this intimation.  
On the 11th ult., at Legdoy House, Balbriggan, near Gormanstown, in the county of Meath, Edward Thomas, the dearly beloved son of Mr. Joseph Bourke, Main-street, Bray, in the county of Wicklow, aged 11 years.  
On the 21st ult., at Rathernogue House, Carlow, Lucy, relict of the late Robert Bickerstaffe, Esq., Preston, Lancashire, aged 84 years.

\* \* \* The charge for the insertion of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, is Five Shillings for each announcement.

## CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 16.

**SUNDAY, April 10.**—Palm Sunday. Divine service—St Paul's Cathedral, 10.30 a.m., the Rev. Prebendary Michael Gibbs, M.A., Rector of Christ Church, Newgate-street; 7 p.m., the Archbishop of York; Chancery Chapel: St. James's, 12 o'clock, the Archbishop of York; Whitehall, 11 a.m., Dr. Hook, Dean of Chichester; 3 p.m., the Rev. Daniel Moore, M.A., Vicar of Holy Trinity, Paddington; Savoy, 11.30 a.m., the Rev. Henry White, Chaplain of the Savoy, and of the House of Commons; 7 p.m., the Very Rev. Dr. Hook, Dean of Chichester.  
**MONDAY, 11.**—North American Civil War began, 1861. Meetings: London Institution Lecture, 4 p.m. (Mr. Bloxam on Chemistry); Royal Institute of British Architects, 8 p.m.; Royal Geographical Society (at the Royal Institution), 8.30 p.m.  
**TUESDAY, 12.**—Dr. Edward Young, author of "Night Thoughts," died, 1765. Meetings: Civil Engineers' Institution, 8 p.m.; Ethnological and Photographic Societies, 8 p.m.; University College, 8.30 p.m. (Professor G. C. Foster on Mechanical and Electric Energy).  
**WEDNESDAY, 13.**—"The Messiah," by G. F. Handel, first performed (at Dublin), 1742; Handel died, 1759. Meetings: Literary Fund, 3 p.m.; Geological, Graphic, and Microscopical Societies, 8 p.m.; British Archaeological Association, 8 p.m.  
**THURSDAY, 14.**—H.R.H. Princess Beatrice born, 1857. Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, shot by Booth (died next day), 1865. Meetings: London Institution Lectures, 7.30 (Dr. Cobbold on Paleontology); Mathematical Society, 8 p.m.  
**FRIDAY, 15.**—Good-Friday. Easter Term begins. Full moon, 10.26 p.m. Divine Service: Chancery Chapel, St. James's, Dr. Stanley, Dean of Westminster; Savoy, Rev. G. F. Maclear, Head Master of King's College School; St. Paul's Cathedral, morning, Rev. J. V. Povah, M.A., Rector, of St. Anne's, Aldersgate-street; afternoon, Rev. Wm. Rogers, M.A., Rector of Bishopsgate; evening, Rev. John Wm. Reeve, M.A., Minister of Portman Chapel.  
**SATURDAY, 16.**—Opening of the first National Portrait Exhibition (at Kensington), 1866. Royal Horticultural Society: promenade, 3.30 p.m.

TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON BRIDGE  
FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 16.

Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
8 6	8 46	9 29	10 15	10 57	11 35	—
8 6	8 46	9 29	10 15	10 57	11 35	—

## THE WEATHER.

RESULTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS AT THE  
NEW OBSERVATORY OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.  
Lat. 51° 28' 6" N.; Long. 0° 18' 47" W.; Height above Sea, 34 feet.

DAY.	DAILY MEANS OF					THERMOM.		WIND.		
	Barometer Corrected.	Temperature of the Air.	Dew Point.	Relative Humidity.	Amount of Cloud.	Minimum, read at 10 A.M.	Maximum, read at 10 P.M.	General Direction.	Movement in 24 hours, read at 10 A.M. next morning.	Rain in 24 hours, read at 10 A.M. next morning.
April Mar.	Inches.	°	°	°	0-10	°	°		Miles.	In.
30	30.259	36.2	34.5	94	7	32.6	49.8	NNE. NE. E.	196	.000
31	30.259	37.6	32.4	83	—	29.6	44.7	NE. NNE. E.	155	.000
1	30.203	38.6	31.5	78	1	30.3	49.0	SE. E. SSE.	130	.000
2	30.252	42.6	30.5	65	—	26.5	53.6	SSE. NE.	117	.000
3	30.252	42.6	30.5	65	—	30.0	52.9	NE. E.	205	.000
4	30.455	38.3	30.6	76	0	24.5	53.3	E.	223	.000
5	30.288	41.6	31.2	69	0	31.7	58.2	NE. E.	158	.000

The following are the readings of the meteorological instruments for the above days, in order, at ten a.m.:

Barometer (in inches) corrected	30.280	30.306	30.243	30.270	30.409	30.508	30.363
Temperature of Air	40.9	36.8	36.6	41.3	43.6	49.5	37.8
Temperature of Evaporation	37.0	34.0	34.0	34.7	39.7	39.0	36.5
Direction of Wind	NNE.	NE.	SE.	SSE.	NE.	E.	NE.

**OLD BOND-STREET GALLERY, 25, Old Bond-street, W.**  
The SPRING EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS in Oil and Water Colours is NOW OPEN. Admission, 1s. Catalogue, 6d. Open at Nine.  
G. F. CHESTER and J. W. BENSON, Hon. Secs.

**NEW BRITISH INSTITUTION, 39, Old Bond-street.**  
FIRST SPRING EXHIBITION OF PICTURES NOW OPEN. Admission, 1s.  
T. J. GULLICK, Hon. Sec.

**DORE GALLERY—GUSTAVE DORE, 35, New Bond-street.**  
EXHIBITION OF PICTURES, including TRIUMPH OF CHRISTIANITY, ROSSINI, TITIAN, FRANCESCA DE RIMINI, at the New Gallery. Open Ten to Five. Glass at dusk. Admission, 1s.

**SOCIETY OF FEMALE ARTISTS (will CLOSE THIS DAY, APRIL 9), Gallery, 9, Conduit-street, Regent-street.** EXHIBITION OF WORKS NOW OPEN, including ST. HUBERT'S SEAL, by Rosa Bonheur. Admission, 1s.

**THE SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.**  
THE SIXTY-SIXTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION WILL OPEN ON MONDAY, APRIL 25, at their Gallery, 5, Pall-Mall East. From Nine till Seven.  
WILLIAM CULLOW, Secretary.

**FRENCH GALLERY, 120, Pall-Mall.**—The SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF PICTURES, the contributions of Artists of the French and Flemish Schools, is NOW OPEN. Admission, 1s. Catalogue, 6d.

**MISS BOUVERIE'S (Mrs. Francis Drake) COSTUME RECITALS, at the ST. GEORGE'S HALL, Langham-place, commencing EASTERN MONDAY NEXT.** Miss Bouverie will appear as Hamlet and Katharine, supported by Messrs. Ryder, Gaston Murray, G. Hignold, Miss Blanche Wilson, &c.

**GOOD FRIDAY AFTERNOON at ST. JAMES'S HALL.**  
Mr. JOHN BOWSEY begs to announce a select CONCERT OF SACRED MUSIC, at St. James's Hall, on Good Friday Afternoon, to commence at Three o'clock and terminate exactly at Five o'clock. Artists:—Madame Sherrington, Miss Edith Wynne, and Madame Pato; Mr. W. H. Cummings, Mr. Nelson Varley, and Mr. Pato; Mustel Organ, N. Lemmens; Pianoforte, Mr. King Hall. The programme will include a selection from Mr. Arthur Sullivan's new Oratorio THE PRODIGAL SON. Prices of Admission:—3s. 1st, 2s. 2nd, 1s. 3rd, 6d. Tickets to be had of Mr. Austin, St. James's Hall; Messrs. Chappell and Co., 50, New Bond-street; Keble, Frowde, and Co., 4, Chesham-street; A. Hays, 4, Royal Exchange-buildings; and Worsley and Co., 1, Collyer-street.

## DOUBLE NUMBER.

## THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

FOR APRIL 30 WILL COMPRISE

TWO PICTURES, PRINTED IN COLOURS,

## THE WOODCOCK'S NEST

AND

## COTTAGE LIFE,

AND

TWO SHEETS OF FINE-ART AND NEWS ILLUSTRATIONS.

Price Tenpence; Stamped, One Shilling.

**INDIA MUSEUM, India Office, S.W., April 2, 1870.**  
NOTICE is hereby given that on and after MONDAY, the 4th inst., the INDIA MUSEUM will be OPENED as follows, viz.:—To the general Public on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday in each week; and on Thursdays to Visitors with special cards from Members of the Council of India and Heads of Departments in the India Office. Entrance in Charles-street. Admission from Noon until Four p.m. from Oct. 1 to April 30, and until Five p.m. from May 1 to Sept. 30. Visitors to the Indian Office on Fridays are also admitted to the Museum through the Office.  
J. FORBES WATSON.

## SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY, EXETER HALL.

Conductor, Sir MICHAEL COSTA.  
ON WEDNESDAY NEXT, APRIL 13, the Thirty-eighth Annual Passion-Week Performance of Handel's MESSIAH. Principal Vocalists—Madame Sinico, Madame Sainton-Dolby, Mr. Vernon Rigby, and Signor Felli. Band and Chorus, on the usual complete scale of the Society's performances, will consist of 700 performers. Commence at Half-past Seven o'clock. Tickets, 3s., 5s.; Stalls, 10s., 6d. each; at 6, Exeter Hall.

## PASSION WEEK.—MESSIAH.—ST. JAMES'S HALL.

Madame BODDA-PYNE'S FAREWELL and Last Appearance in THE MESSIAH, TUESDAY NEXT, APRIL 12. Conductor, Mr. G. W. Martin. Principal Vocalists—Mesdames Bodda-Pyne, Arabella Smyth, Lucy Franklin; Mr. George Perren, and Mr. Patey. Organist, Mr. J. G. Boardman. Band and Chorus of the National Choral Society. Tickets, 1s.; Exeter Hall; Mitchell's, Bond-street; Austin's, St. James's Hall; and all Music-sellers'. Sofa Stalls, 10s., 6d.; Balcony, 3s.; Gallery, 1s.

## MUSICAL UNION.—Twenty-Sixth Season.—Tickets and

Records have been sent to Members. The latter having nominations to send names and addresses to the Director.  
New talent will be introduced during the season. J. ELLA, 9, Victoria-square.

## CRYSTAL PALACE.—Next Week.—The Spring Resort.

Tuesday—Last of the Shilling Operas till after the Easter Holidays. For title, see Monday's papers.  
Friday—Good Friday—Grand Sacred Concert. Display of all the Great Fountains, and the Thousand-and-One Attractions of the People's Resort.  
Monday to Friday, One Shilling; or by Guinea Season Tickets—present issue dating Twelve Months from April 1, at all the Great Fountains and Agents.  
Orchestral Band and Festival Organ twice daily.  
Fine Arts and Industrial Courts, Tropical Department, Orangery; Grounds in Early Spring Beauty; Fountains Playing, &c.  
Saturday—Last Saturday Concert of the Series. Half a Crown.

## CRYSTAL PALACE ON GOOD FRIDAY.—"The Favourite

Resort of the People on their Great Annual Holiday."

## CRYSTAL PALACE.—GRAND SACRED CONCERT, at

Half-past Three.—Madame Rudersdorf, Mdlle. Carola, Madame Florence Lancia, Mdlle. Drasid, Mr. Vernon Rigby, Signor Felli, Signor Felli, Mr. Aynley Cook. Trumpet Obligato, Mr. T. Harper. Festival Organ, Mr. James Coward. Conductor, Mr. A. Maans. Crystal Palace Orchestra. Full Band of Royal Artillery, and Great Festival Organ.  
The Day Performances will afford Country Visitors a capital opportunity of seeing the greatest and most sparkling Entertainment in London, which has attracted densely crowded audiences to this Hall eight, and often ten, times in each week for more than five consecutive years, during which period they have never once performed out of London. Two Thousand Shilling Seats, in the most magnificent Hall in the world. Full particulars next week. Provincial Visitors must not fail to make the Crystal Palace Entertainment one of the special objects of their visit to the Metropolis.—General Manager, Mr. Frederick Burgess.

No extra charge for admission. As usual, One Shilling. Half-Crown Stalls now ready. Reserved Seats, One Shilling.

NOTE.—For full particulars of the Music to be performed, Attractions inside and outside the Palace, Arrangements of the Day, &c., see Handbills.

## CRYSTAL PALACE.—NEXT FRIDAY—GOOD FRIDAY.

53,671 persons visited the Palace last Good Friday. Access by railway increased and improved. The great Popular Holiday falling later this year, Grounds more beautiful than usual. Display of Great Fountains added to the thousand-and-one other Attractions. Greater Day than ever may be expected. Palace lighted up at dusk. Being full moon, Gardens open late to afford opportunity for leisurely departure.  
One Shilling Day. Come Early.  
Open for Admission from Nine till Nine.

## ST. JAMES'S GREAT HALL, Regent-street and Piccadilly.

**EASTER HOLIDAYS.**—In conformance with their usual custom, the original and only recognised CHRISTIAN MINISTERS (Messrs. Moore and Burgess, sole proprietors) will celebrate the Easter Holidays on a grand scale. Entirely New Programme, New Songs, New Dances, and New Comicalities. New and important additions will be made to the already powerful company. There will be Four Extra Performances in the Great Hall as follows:—Easter Monday Afternoon, at Three; Easter Monday Night, at Eight; Easter Tuesday Afternoon, at Three; Easter Tuesday Night, at Eight.  
The Day Performances will afford Country Visitors a capital opportunity of seeing the greatest and most sparkling Entertainment in London, which has attracted densely crowded audiences to this Hall eight, and often ten, times in each week for more than five consecutive years, during which period they have never once performed out of London. Two Thousand Shilling Seats, in the most magnificent Hall in the world. Full particulars next week. Provincial Visitors must not fail to make the Crystal Palace Entertainment one of the special objects of their visit to the Metropolis.—General Manager, Mr. Frederick Burgess.

## SONGS OF SCOTLAND, HANOVER-SQUARE ROOMS.

MR. KENNEDY, the Scottish Vocalist, will give his celebrated Entertainment on THE SONGS OF SCOTLAND, APRIL 25, 27, and 29; MAY 2, 4, and 6, at Eight o'clock. A Special Morning Entertainment, Saturday, April 30, at Three o'clock. Tickets, 1s. and 2s.; Numbered Stalls, 3s.; at all the Music-sellers, and at the Rooms.

## MR. and Mrs. GERMAN REED, Twice on Easter Monday

(Three and Eight), in AGES AGO, with Mr. Arthur Cecil and Miss Fanny Holland. To conclude with BEGGAR MY NEIGHBOUR. Every Evening, except Saturday, at Eight; Thursday and Saturday, at Three.—ROYAL GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION, 14, Regent-street. Admission, 1s., 2s., 3s., and 5s. Closed Next (Passion) Week.

## W. S. WOODIN'S 120th REPRESENTATION at the

EGYPTIAN HALL, Piccadilly, with his Famous and Original CARPET-BAG and SKETCH-BOOK Entertainment, Every Evening, except Saturday, at Eight; Saturday Mornings at Three. Box-office open from Ten till Five. Manager, Mr. Dudley.

## AGRICULTURAL HALL.—Engagement of the Celebrated

Joe Browne, who will appear with Mr. Joseph Taylor, the renowned American Banjoist, and Fred Howe, the Emperor of the Bones, in Hamilton's Popular Entertainment, AMERICA AS IT IS. New Ballads by Mr. and Madame Herbert. Every Evening at Eight. Wednesday and Saturday Afternoons at Three.

## ST. JAMES'S HALL, Piccadilly.—The Original and only

Recognised CHRISTIAN MINISTERS, Messrs. George W. Moore and Frederick Burgess, Proprietors, will perform Every Night During the present Week (Good Friday excepted). Extra Performances on Wednesday and Saturday Afternoons at Three. The same Programme, received with such marked tokens of favour and approval at Mr. Moore's Benefit in the Great Hall on Wednesday, will be repeated up to Saturday next. At Easter an entire change. General Manager, Mr. FREDERICK BURGESS.

## THEATRE ROYAL HAYMARKET.—MONDAY, April 11.

and on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday, NEW MEN AND OLD ACRES, and NO SONG, NO SUPPER, with all the Original Music.

## ROYAL AMPHITHEATRE, Holborn.—A GRAND

SACRED CONCERT ON GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 15.—Principal Vocalists: Madame Lemmens-Sherrington, Miss Palmer, Mr. Nelson Varley, and Mr. Orlando Christian. Solo Trumpet, Mr. Thomas Harper. Leader, Mr. Victor Ruzia (Solo Violinist to Her Majesty the Queen). Conductor, Mr. H. West Hill. The full Orchestra will include the most eminent Professors from the Italian Operas and Philharmonic Societies. The Chorus will consist of the London Choral Union, selected from members of the Sacred Harmonic Society and other principal London Choral Societies. Rossini's "Sabbat Mater." Selections from "The Messiah". Doors open at Seven; commence at Half-past. Box-office open daily.

## NEW NATIONAL STANDARD THEATRE, Bishopsgate.

Last Five Nights of FORMOSA, by Dion Boucicault, Esq., with all the original Drury Lane Effects. On Good Friday, "The Messiah"—Madame Rudersdorf, &c.; Band and Chorus of 500. On Easter Monday, Mr. J. L. Toole in "Uncle Dick's Darling," and Miss Julia Mathews in a New Burlesque.

## THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON: SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 1870.

The House of Commons is still wrestling and struggling with its gigantic task of a scheme to soothe the variable

woes of 600,000 Irish farm-tenants. Just half this

number are holders of less than fifteen acres each, and

many of less than five acres. It only needs a glance at

the sketches by our Special Artist, the first of which

appear in to-day's Paper, to show that there really is a

question of chronic agricultural distress. Mr. Gladstone, whose heart is his vulnerable point in the fierce fight of a party debate, was guilty, on Tuesday, of the unstatesmanlike weakness of pity. He remembered that, to one of these poor Irish peasantry, whose dwellings and living are such as we see, the loss of a farm is not merely a loss of profits on capital, but immediate starvation. It does not follow, as Mr. Gathorne Hardy truly replied, that the landlord is bound to feed the ejected tenant, except through the public administration of poor-law relief. But there is an end of all arguments from the case of ordinary English and Scottish farmers, who can take up their capital and place it in some other occupation, either in country or town. We believe, indeed, that it is the absence of trades, handicrafts, and manufactures in Ireland, more than any peculiarity in the tenure or culture of the soil, which causes this wretched state of the people. A nation of less than six millions, in which every alternate man is a farmer and every other man is an idler for lack of hire, cannot be in a very good way. Emigration or famine, now and then, may check the increase of its hopeless multitude; but only the invention of new industrial resources at home can raise their social condition. That is not, however, the present business of Parliament. It has to do with the existing race of poor little cultivators, utterly dependent for life on their diminutive holdings. Should legislation give them a certain proprietary right in the tenancy, at the expense of the full rights of ownership and disposal hitherto belonging to the landlord? Is it just or wise to do this for the protection of a helpless class of sufferers, when nobody can pretend that the landowner is doing them a wrong? The answer to this question must not be rashly given. There could be no hesitation in denying the justice of such a course if it necessarily involved a substantial loss to the proprietor of the land. The law ought not to abstract from the wealth of any one class to give a portion to any other. But the law, for reasons of public utility, may alter the form and mode of enjoying private property without diminishing its amount. In every country of Europe, as well as in this kingdom, the regulations for letting and using land have been made conformable to the supposed welfare of the State. Their validity is derived not simply from the contracts between private parties, but from the express recognition of such contracts by law; and if it be needful to cure a great social evil by prescribing, in these contracts, a certain limitation of the power of ejectment, the Legislature does not act unjustly in so doing. Whether it be acting wisely, in the case of these small Irish agricultural holdings, is the question which our House of Commons has been debating since Friday last week.

We must acknowledge a feeling of regret that it should be found necessary to interfere, by protective penalties on arbitrary ejectment, in favour of the smaller class of tenants-at-will, in a manner which nobody would think fit on behalf of larger holders. This is too like the conduct of an injudicious mother, who indulges her little children with gifts which are steadily withheld from their big brothers and sisters, without regard to their desert. Such gifts of favouritism ought not, at any rate, to be made at the cost of others than the fond parent herself. But will it really be so, in the ultimate result, with the boon of a claim to damages for eviction? We should be sorry to advocate the passing of Mr. Gladstone's bill if we believed that its effect would be to lessen the pecuniary value of Irish landed estates. It would be an act of profligacy, not of liberality, to force upon any proprietor, without compensation from public funds, a new rule likely either to reduce the rental of his property, or to make it worth fewer years' purchase. We should at once declare, if such were the probable event, that the loss to the Irish landlords must be made up, somehow or other, by the Imperial Exchequer. It might be difficult to deal with their individual losses. But Parliament would have to consider whether to grant them a remission of fiscal burdens on land, of rates or taxes; or to vote a few millions for Irish railways, roads, or arterial drainage; or to advance loans, at nominal interest, for improving private estates. Something of the kind would be justly demanded, in our opinion, were the substantial value of Irish landed property to be injured by the operation of Mr. Gladstone's measure. But we are inclined to hope that it will have the opposite effect; that higher rents will be borne, and paid with greater punctuality, by tenants who are enabled securely to invest their labour, care, and money in the improvement of their farming; and that landed estates in Ireland will be worth as many years' purchase as in England, instead of a third less, as they now are. One of the Fermanagh landlords, Mr. D'Arcy Irvine, does not seem to like the prospect. He has announced his intention of getting rid of all his tenants-at-will, giving them compensation under the proposed Act, and henceforth cultivating his estate for himself. We wish him all success, for he will have to employ the peasantry as hired labourers in a higher style of husbandry on a larger scale. But the grievance which he contemplates is the disagreeable ordeal of submitting to judicial arbitration the questions of rent and compensation between himself and an outgoing tenant. It can scarcely be the apprehension of any substantial loss. He does not explain, at least, his grounds for expecting a loss. His letter has the tone of a high-spirited gentleman, who does not calculate the contingent chances of his novel position, but who is honourably conscious of having fairly maintained, as Mr. Disraeli



says, "the moral relations of landlord and tenant," and who indignantly resents the intrusion of assistant barristers and attorneys between himself and his neighbours occupying under him. There are many such gentlemen in Ireland, as well as in England; just as in the Slave States of America, before Emancipation, there were many planters who could not treat a negro harshly or unkindly, and who resented the interference of the Abolitionists with the purest consciousness of having behaved well to their dependent fellow-creatures. We esteem and praise these considerate owners of property, while extending the protection of law to a helpless class of human beings at the mercy of those who are less thoughtful, or less scrupulous in the exercise of their power.

The conflict of genuine opinions, as well as the strategic display of party pretensions, in the discussions of the Committee on Friday, Monday, and Tuesday, had much more interest than in the debate on the second reading, a month ago. The third clause of the bill, amended by Government to separate the award of damages for eviction from the award of compensation for exhausable improvements, is the most essential part of the whole measure. A great deal of time and talk was at first wasted by the attempt of Mr. Disraeli and Dr. Ball to convict the Ministry of a surreptitious procedure in this amendment. After a careful reperusal of the speeches on the second reading, and of the Prime Minister's speech in February, when the bill was introduced, our distinct recollection is confirmed, that its authors had consistently proclaimed their intention. They always meant to check the practice or the threat of causeless ejectment by imposing a fine or penalty on the landlord, whether or not there was any claim for actual improvements made by the tenant. The Conservative party of Great Britain is true to its own principles in resisting this proposal. It is beaten by a Liberal majority of 76 in an evening sitting, and by one of 111 in a morning sitting, of very full Houses. The most vital provision of the bill has thus been successfully defended. There remains a long list of amendments to many of the clauses, which will require much attention in Committee, but which may not touch any important principle. The remarks of Sir Roundell Palmer, on Monday evening, appear to furnish the best guidance through the maze of equities that beckon us hither and thither in quest of a safe plan for the adjustment of this most difficult matter. The Government scheme, as now framed, is evidently still far from being perfect. It will be greatly improved, no doubt, before it goes up to the House of Lords. There must be some consideration for the Judges who are to administer the law. Its terms are so vague that their interpretation would be a very embarrassing task.

### THE REVENUE.

	The YEAR ended March 31, 1870.			QUARTER ended March 31, 1870.		
	Revenue	Increase	Decrease	Revenue	Increase	Decrease
Customs...	21,529,000	—	895,000	4,941,000	—	544,000
Excise ..	21,763,000	1,301,000	—	7,014,000	1,024,000	—
Stamps ..	9,248,000	30,000	—	2,425,000	—	117,000
Taxes ..	4,500,000	1,006,000	—	2,157,000	1,726,000	—
Property Tax	10,044,000	1,426,000	—	5,784,000	2,513,000	—
Post Office ..	4,670,000	10,000	—	1,170,000	—	39,000
Telegraphs ..	100,000	100,000	—	100,000	100,000	—
Crown Lands	375,000	15,000	—	114,000	12,000	—
Miscellaneous	3,205,232	—	150,739	1,123,766	—	34,878
Totals ..	75,434,232	3,888,000	1,045,739	24,828,766	5,409,873	691,000
		Net Increase.			Net Increase.	
		£2,842,261			£4,718,878	

### WEEKLY RETURN OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

The Registrar-General gives the following return of births and deaths in London and in nineteen other large towns of the United Kingdom during the week ending Saturday, April 2:—

In London the births of 2421 children, 1247 boys and 1174 girls, were registered last week.

The deaths registered in the same time were 1625. During the corresponding weeks of ten previous years the registered births averaged 2176, and the deaths 1543 per week; after making due allowance for increase of population, the average for the past week is estimated at 2393 births and 1697 deaths; the registered births were, therefore, 28 above and the deaths 72 below the estimated average.

The deaths show an increase of 147 on the previous week's return, and the excess is found mainly among children between their first and fifth years of age, among adults aged forty to sixty years, and among old people past their eightieth year of life. Zymotic diseases caused 283 deaths, 78 being from scarlet fever. Scarlet fever shows an increased fatality of 22 on the previous return. In the category of "street accidents," only one death occurred, that of an apprentice to a linen-draper, aged nineteen years, run over by a brewer's dray. Three deaths resulted either directly or indirectly from the want of the common necessities of life.

During the week 5671 births and 3797 deaths were registered in London and nineteen other large cities and towns of the United Kingdom; and the aggregate mortality of the week was in the ratio of 27 deaths annually to every 1000 of the present estimated population, the ratio for the two preceding weeks having been 26 and 24 per 1000. The annual rates of mortality last week in the seventeen English cities and towns, ranged in order from the lowest, were as follow:—18 per 1000 in Sunderland, 19 in Hull, 23 in Birmingham, 24 in Leeds, 24 in Norwich, 26 in London, 26 in Liverpool, 27 in Salford, 27 in Newcastle-on-Tyne, 28 in Leicester, 28 in Sheffield, 29 in Bradford, 29 in Nottingham, 30 in Portsmouth, 32 in Manchester, 33 in Bristol, and 36 in Wolverhampton.

The Glasgow police have found a barrel containing thirty-six revolvers and fourteen packages of cartridges in the house of a man named Macnamara, in that city. His wife stated that a strange man had brought the barrel to the house, and Macnamara himself denies all knowledge of the matter. The street in which the arms were found is largely inhabited by Irish families.

### "NOTHING IN THE PAPERS."

History is, I believe, silent as to the character, habits, and fate of "the Hermit of Prague." He, according to Shakspeare, made a short speech, of Positivist sort, to a young lady, the niece of King Gorboduc. But all else that we know of the holy man is that he "never saw pen and ink." We may learn more about him from the mammoth Variorum edition, which is announced in America, and of which (as I estimate its least cost at a hundred guineas) I shall wait for a presentation copy, in preference to subscribing to the work. Meantime, I would remark that if the Hermit's negligence in regard to pen and ink was voluntary, I do not know that he was not as wise as the average of hermits. But if he had been accustomed to use those articles more or less freely, and with greater or less detriment to the comfort of his readers, and he had suddenly been debarred from the use and sight of the implements for upwards of two months, I do say that Hermit would have deserved the young lady's pity, and that of the rest of his friends. I say this, having myself undergone the latter deprivation, at the order of two of the kindest and most imperative of medical friends; and perhaps that is all I need state in reference to the temporary disappearance of the paragraphs which had so long borne the heading at the top of this column.

S. B.

One would come back to work as a decently-behaved man conducts himself at a dinner for which he has the misfortune to be so late that the guests have sat down. He glides into his seat without fuss, and takes whatever may be going round. I have read the papers during my recumbency, and have observed a hundred topics which might have furnished texts for my brief sermons. But these texts have been fully expounded as they have turned up; and, moreover, it is just possible that one's views about them may have been slightly tinged by the discouraging circumstances in which they were studied by the present writer. To anything older than the present month of April I will say, as the unkind and mercenary chaplain said to the too affectionate Mary, in Dean Swift's poem.

D'ye see?

You are no text for my handling, so take that from me.

The boat-race and the pictures seem to be the topics with which the month opens. The former will be won and lost before these lines are in print. Of the pictures, on which I have in other years had the honour of making some observations of an utterly uncritical kind, I can speak but from hearsay, "Picture Sunday" having been blotted out of my calendar. We know that most of the Notables have been very industrious, and we regret to know that some of them have been rendered idle by illness. The outsiders have also been hard at work, and one hears that the rejections have been exceedingly numerous—heartaches for the feeble, stimulants for the stronger, workers. The Academicians had their term of grace, but all are "in" now, and the hangers are mapping the walls of the noble rooms. People who have had the privilege of "walking the studios" (a privilege which, I believe, has managed to extend itself a good deal further than is consistent even with the courtesies of life) have wonders to tell of individual works; and, by computation, one is led to believe that the exhibition this year will be a remarkable one. If so, this is well, not only in the interests of art, but in those of the artists. Last year we were full of curiosity to see the new chambers, and criticism had a good deal to say about unaccustomed light, and so forth; but this year there will be no such disturbing influences, and the real and the sham critics will do their best—and worst. Anxious to do something to promote the success of the 102nd exhibition of the Royal Academy, I renew my plea for the page of blue paper in the catalogue. That harmless litmus I do not crave for test purposes, but for sanitary uses, and as an aid to a fair judgment. The eye is much enduring, but wants comforting after its first five hundred exercises. Is it quite out of the line of the Professor of Anatomy to say "an ocular word?"

"Let nothing divide France and England but the sea—but always that," was a sentiment of Douglas Jerrold's, who had, moreover, strong insular ideas about the liberties of this country being "preserved in brine." But I perceive from articles everywhere, pictures in this Paper, and paragraphs up to the time of my writing, that some people have determined to do away, practically, with the Channel. I make my compliments to the splendid inventive courage of engineering, and am content to take my share of the taunt delivered at the meeting of the Society of Arts—common minds cannot appreciate things which genius devises. But I tell all concerned that Mrs. Grundy does not like the scheme. She is conscientious; and, believing that France was intended to be part of the Continent and England an island by itself, she holds that we are flying in the face of the arrangements of Nature, for whom she has another name. But she would get over this (I knew a lady, a sister of Mrs. G., who would not go to a theatre, but had no objection to Astley's, because there we saw man's power over the animal creation; so we beheld "Mazeppa" in great peace of mind), and perhaps allow that to bridge or tunnel the Channel was a great proof of the intellect Nature has given us. But, the fact is, she is afraid of the French. Nature made them our enemies—that has been said in Parliament itself; and it is wrong to try to transform us, by an iron belt, into Siamese twins. Mrs. Grundy believes that the Emperor, or his son, or President Rochefort hereafter, will carry out the Napoleonic idea, and pour French legions over the bridge or through the pipe—and then where will be our liberties and spoons! Unless the engineers devise some flap, or sluice-gate, or portcullis, or something that will shut off the Zouaves, I regret to say that Mrs. Grundy will not be at all easy in her mind. And she is largely represented.

In regard to the payment of members of Parliament, there is one consideration which in these days of economy and exactitude ought to be looked at. Mr. Gladstone demolished all the arguments in favour of the plan; but the question whether all members should be paid alike was not mooted. Yet, if the money is to come out of our taxes, I think the taxpayer may have something to say on that point. We have lately been taught, emphatically, that we ought to have money's worth for our money; and it is a good lesson. But should we get this if we paid the same salary to a member like Mr. \*\*\*\*, who is highly educated, a hard worker, a good speaker, and one who serves valiantly on Committees, and to Mr. \*\*\*\* (I mean nobody in particular), who is not educated at all, shirks the House, is laughed at when he rises, and makes a clatrap motion once or twice in a Session? Surely there ought to be a tariff, which shall in some way preserve us from being cheated. The vineyard and the penny had spiritual, not worldly, application. We cannot introduce trades-union doctrine, and refuse to let the

skilled and zealous political artisan win wealth because the stupid and idle one cannot or will not do more than a set quantity. We must certainly have "payment by results," not handicapping. I wonder, by-the-way, whether Mr. Taylor has formed any sort of estimate as to what a member ought to be paid. I should like him to ask a neighbour in the House (not a plunger) what figure he would recommend. Even club expenses are high in these days, when people who were never intended to consume luxuries eat them up and send the prices aloft. Could an unmarried M.P. of moderate habits be kept in comfort (he must be comfortable, or he could not be calm over his legislation) on less than £500 a year? Very well, multiply that by 658, for all must take the income, or there would be a social inferiority. I should like to hear Mr. Lowe, now Master of the Mint, on that item.

### THE COURT.

At the Council held by the Queen, on Thursday week, at Windsor Castle, were present Earl De Grey, Earl Granville, the Earl of Kimberley, and Viscount Sydney. Earl De Grey and Earl Granville had audiences of her Majesty. Mr. Helps was clerk of the Council. The Queen conferred the honour of knighthood upon Francis Ronalds, Esq. In the evening her Majesty received intelligence of the death of General the Hon. Charles Grey.

On the following day the Queen, desirous of testifying her great regard for the lamented General and regret for his loss, went to London, accompanied by Princess Louisa, and paid a visit of condolence to the Hon. Mrs. Grey.

On Saturday last Princess Christian dined with the Queen. Princess Louisa went to London, and was present at a lecture given by Mr. J. N. Lockyer at the Royal Institution. Her Royal Highness afterwards returned to Windsor. The Bishop of Oxford arrived at the castle. Prince and Princess Christian dined with her Majesty.

On Sunday the Queen, Prince and Princess Christian, Princess Louisa, Prince Leopold, and Princess Beatrice attended Divine service in the private chapel of the castle. The Bishop of Oxford officiated. Prince and Princess Christian remained at the castle to luncheon.

On Monday the Bishop of Manchester arrived at the castle, and was introduced to the Queen's presence by the Right Hon. H. A. Bruce, and did homage. The Hon. Eva Macdonald arrived at the castle. Princess Christian dined with her Majesty.

On Tuesday Princess Louisa attended a meeting in aid of the Palestine Exploration Fund, held at St. Mark's School, Windsor, under the presidency of General Seymour. Prince Leopold visited Sir James Clark at Bagshot Park.

Princess Blanche of Orleans arrived at the castle on Wednesday, on a visit to the Queen.

Thursday was the seventeenth anniversary of the birthday of Prince Leopold.

Her Majesty held a Council yesterday (Friday).

The Queen, accompanied by the members of the Royal family, has taken daily walking and driving exercise during the week, in the vicinity of the Royal demesne.

Her Majesty's birthday will be celebrated on Saturday, May 28.

The new building of the University of London, in Burlington-gardens, will be opened by her Majesty in person on Wednesday, May 11.

The Countess of Caledon has succeeded Lady Churchill as Lady in Waiting. Lady Churchill remains at the castle. The Hon. Florence Seymour has arrived at the castle as Maid of Honour in Waiting. Lord Camoys and Major-General Sir Francis Seymour have succeeded Lord Methuen and Colonel the Hon. A. Liddell as Lord and Groom in Waiting.

### THE QUEEN'S LEVEE.

By command of the Queen, a Levée was held, on Wednesday, at Buckingham Palace, by the Prince of Wales, on behalf of her Majesty. Presentations to his Royal Highness at this Court are, by the Queen's pleasure, considered as equivalent to presentations to her Majesty. The Prince of Wales, attended by his Gentlemen in Waiting and escorted by a detachment of the Life Guards, arrived at the palace from Marlborough House at two o'clock, and was received by the great officers of state of the Royal household.

Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, the Duke of Cambridge, Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, and Prince Teck were present at the Levée.

The Prince of Wales entered the Throne-room accompanied by Prince Christian and the Duke of Cambridge and attended by the customary officers of state. The diplomatic circle was attended by the principal members of the corps and the general circle by the usual great officers of state. Presentations to the number of 170 were made to the Prince.

### THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES.

The Prince and Princess of Wales visited the exhibition of the Society of British Artists yesterday week. Their Royal Highnesses also paid a visit of condolence to the Hon. Mrs. Grey, at St. James's Palace.

On Saturday last the Prince hunted with the Surrey stag-hounds near Lewes. In the evening the Prince and Princess went to the Royal Italian Opera.

On Sunday their Royal Highnesses attended Divine service in the Chapel Royal, St. James's. The Rev. the Sub-Dean, the Rev. T. Helmore, and the Bishop of Salisbury officiated.

On Monday the Prince presided at a meeting at the Society of Arts of the Educational Section of the International Exhibition of 1871. In the evening the Prince and Princess were present at the performance at the Holborn Theatre in aid of the Sleigh Fund.

On Wednesday the Prince held a Levée, which is recorded above. Subsequently his Royal Highness, accompanied by the Prince of Leiningen and Prince Teck, witnessed the Oxford and Cambridge boat-race from the umpire's boat. The Princess, accompanied by Prince Albert Victor and Prince George, witnessed the race from Chiswick. In the evening their Royal Highnesses had a dinner party at Marlborough House. Covers were laid for thirty. The band of the Royal Horse Guards (Blue) was in attendance.

The Prince and Princess have taken their customary daily drives during the week. Their Royal Highnesses will pass Easter at Sandringham.

The Duchess of Cambridge arrived at her residence in the Ambassadors' Court, St. James's, on Monday, from visiting the Duke of Rutland at Belvoir Castle.

Prince and Princess Teck returned to town, on Monday, from visiting the Duke of Rutland at Belvoir Castle.

His Excellency the Marquis de Lavalette has arrived at the French Embassy, Albert-gate, from Paris, to resume his diplomatic duties.

The remains of General the Hon. Charles Grey were removed from St. James's Palace, on Wednesday, and conveyed to Howick Castle. The interment took place, yesterday (Friday), in the family vault at St. Michael's, Howick.





PROPOSED NEW BUILDINGS OF THE GENERAL POST-OFFICE, ST. MARTIN'S-LE-GRAND.  
SEE PAGE 362.



## SKETCHES IN PARLIAMENT.

The monopoly of Parliament by Ireland has continued unabated. Even the episodes, as distinguished from the huge, complicated, and getting-more-twisted-every-day Land Bill, are Irish. It is refreshing, however, to have to record that there have been two episodes that were notable which had no Hibernian element about them. One of them was famous in its results, inasmuch as it was the singular abnormal fate of Mr. Newdegate to persuade the House to indorse one of his specialties, and, besides, to put the present strong Government, for the first time, in a minority, though of only two. It was difficult to decide which looked the more astonished, Mr. Newdegate or Mr. Glyn, when each found himself in so entirely unaccustomed a position as that which they then respectively occupied. The former seemed more startled than radiant, the question probably arising in his mind that, having got a victory, what was he to do with it; while the latter appeared to be positively amused at the oddness of the situation. It may be literally said that the strong Government for once was caught napping, for the Solicitor-General, to whom alone Ministers intrusted the duty of opposing Mr. Newdegate in his desire of peeping into monasteries and convents, indulged in some pleasant repose, and when he came to speak made so little of his case—there are some audacious people who say made such a mess of it—that certain Liberal waverers were driven into conviction in favour of the motion by the very arguments which were adduced against it, and so the pigmy majority was attained. The other interlude to which reference has been made was a very amusing one, and not the less because Mr. Peter Taylor contrived to play with the subject of the payment of members in a fashion at once interesting and comic. When an angular politician and a hard-voiced speaker takes to the utterance of drolleries, however they may have been composed beforehand, the result is specially entertaining: for, there being no expectation, surprise, which has been laid down to be the first source of laughter, is excited, and the mirth which succeeds is evoked by the feeling of novelty. No doubt, judging from the demeanour of the House, Mr. Taylor was judicious in treating the subject in an airy instead of a wholly grave manner; for everyone, perhaps including himself, seemed to look at the matter as a joke spread over a speech of an hour's duration; and even Mr. Gladstone caught the prevailing infection, and was successfully facetious in his reply. The discussion did not last long, owing doubtless to the impatience of the large majority, which rejected the motion to show that they utterly despised remuneration for membership in the pleasantest of all possible clubs, on a scale ranging from £500 to £150 a year.

The organised efforts which the Government (or rather Mr. Gladstone, for he does everything, great and small, on large or on minor questions) is making to push on the Land Bill have been productive of much animated talk, and of no little antagonism also. It is true that in the vexed contests as to whether there should be morning sittings before Easter, the Liberals as a body have been quiescent, but it is more than suspected that many of them sympathised with the protests against this system, which the Opposition for a while intrusted to the prickly advocacy of Mr. Bentinck, or the cool *insouciance* of Mr. Lowther. Probably, however, seeing that even in this matter it was not desirable that the lead of the Opposition should be taken by such pro-leaders, Mr. Disraeli himself intervened, and many a long hour has been lost in wrangling as to how time should be gained which might have profitably been consumed on the real business in hand. In every one of these jangles Mr. Gladstone has been fighting, like Shaw the Life Guardsman, hand-to-hand with all and sundry antagonists not worthy of his steel, and suffering it to be seen that he can be scratched by the mere nettles of Mr. Bentinck. As to the Land Bill, so far from progressing, after all the urgency which has been expended on it, it is "like a crab, and doth go backward;" its intricacies increase, and its amendments by its authors are such as to change its front conspicuously. Matters in regard to it have arrived at such a pass that Mr. Disraeli, rousing himself from the torpor into which he seemed to have been cast, has gone into formal and direct opposition to a measure to which he had promised his assistance, if not his support. To be sure, his speech, when he initiated the direct party movement, last Monday, dragged its slow weight along, as ponderously as did the broad-wheeled waggons from York to London in the days in which Smollett's stories are laid; but in his reply he was all his old self—lively, pointed, and (if the phrase may be excused) as frisky as in the time of his "Peelies." It may have been owing to the dreariness of Mr. Disraeli's opening speech, and its affording no salient points, except a lachrymose affectation of sorrow at having to go into opposition, that, after the first sentence in reply of Mr. Lowe, was curiously ineffective. His whole mode of speaking was changed, for, instead of "slithering" along, as his manner is, in one continuous flow of words, checked only now and then by the laughter and cheers evoked by a biting sarcasm or sparkling witticism, he was broken, insequential, one had almost said confused; but, at any rate, he was a remarkable and patent exemplar of a bold asserter suffering under the operation of eating his own words. In this debate there was a notable instance of the change of the Opposition tactics, for Mr. Hardy, who has so long struggled, and with some success, to be "meek and gentle" with the Ministry and their followers, and, still more difficult, even to be reticent; on this particular night, when Mr. Disraeli announced the resumption of the functions of the "outs," his first lieutenant lost no time in venting a wild shriek of liberty, and exemplified in voice, and action, and language his joyous readiness to "let slip the dogs of war." He has been in direct conflict with Mr. Gladstone more than once, and, perhaps, it was owing to the irritation arising from these encounters that the Premier has been roused into that dangerously excited vein which has not been so common with him of late as of yore. Witness the tremendous energy of his speech on Tuesday last, which, however, concluded with an anti-climax, suggesting that Mr. Gladstone's own resources must have failed him for the moment, when he went so far as to adopt a quotation from Lord Russell, ending with a quotation of Romeo's description of the famine-struck apothecary, and to use it as his peroration. These particular words seemed to have inspired Mr. Hardy with fire-eyed fury; and he almost foamed when he was denouncing the danger of comparing, as he alleged, unemployed East-End workmen to the starving apothecary, and by consequence implying all sorts of nefariousness to their ex-masters; whereas the comparison was a highly metaphorical one, and applicable only to a fancied condition of Ireland.

It has been said that almost all the episodes have been Irish; and one of them was striking enough in its general development and notable in some of its features. This was the motion of Mr. Fawcett to throw open Trinity College, Dublin, in every respect to all classes of religionists. It came about that the singular spectacle was witnessed of one of the

members for the University of Dublin seconding the motion, and at the same time presenting the additional attraction of a maiden speech from a lineal descendant of that Plunket of whom the tradition is that he was in all essentials and in every minor respect as great an orator as ever enchanted the Imperial Parliament. It is not to be said that the Mr. Plunket of to-day made out a claim to full possession of his ancestor's mantle; but he did make his mark, and proved that some of his progenitor's gifts were in him hereditary. He has to overcome a great obstacle to good speaking—namely, a slight stutter, which mars his level passages; but when he got into full swing every trace of this impediment vanished, his voice became sonorous, loud but silvery; his utterance free and rapid, though not too swift; his language nervous and elevated, and his impulses palpably pouring from him without check and hindrance; so that altogether the latter part of his speech, in which he had to pronounce his real sentiments, as distinguished from the factitious liberality of its earlier portion, was effective in the sense that all rushes of rhetoric are effective, by which men's ears are rapt rather than their intelligence addressed. At any rate, the speech deserved and obtained the distinction of being made the subject of an elaborate reply from the Prime Minister, who, however, had another act to perform, which he did with a vengeance. It is no secret that there is a section of the Liberal party, of which Mr. Fawcett is a special type, who are, in regard to the Ministry, "Irreconcilables;" and it has been supposed that this little leaven of divergence might insinuate itself gradually into the whole lump. It is inconceivable, and difficult to describe the aspect, attitude, and expression of face which characterise Mr. Fawcett when he has asserted what he calls his independence of the Ministry without adopting terms and phraseology which would hardly be consistent with propriety; but it must suffice to say that if Mr. Gladstone marks, as no doubt he does, this demeanour, he must be less than human if his temper is not tried; and everyone knows how really sensitive he is in a personal sense. Well, it seemed as though the Prime Minister was resolved to bring matters between him and the small band of irritating dissidents, and their leader in particular, to a crisis; and so he took occasion in his most abounding and high-sounding manner, mingled with defiance which was almost fierce, to hurl at this section of his party their allegiance, which they had not formally withdrawn, however they may have systematically swerved from it; and, appealing with proud assurance to the rest of his followers, announced that in opposing the motion, and refusing to cede the right of the Government to withhold their policy on the question, he put the issue as one of confidence in his Administration. The effect was extraordinary; the Opposition was frightened at the notion of having, by opposing the motion, to join in a vote of confidence in the Government, and some of them ran away when the vote, which was only one for the adjournment of the debate, was to be taken by the Government as decisive of the issue which Mr. Gladstone had raised; but the bulk of the Liberals closed their ranks and answered to the appeal by an overwhelming majority. The scene was one of much noise and excitement, and the House, as it were, swayed to and fro, and its characteristic attributes as the freest constitutional assembly in the world were fully brought out. The end of that night's strife was curious; for when, in the hope of worrying the Government into acceding to the postponement of the debate, a motion to adjourn the House was made, Mr. Gladstone having craftily accepted it, the sitting was at once closed, and further discussion of Mr. Fawcett's motion relegated to the Greek Kalends; besides which, as by the rules of the House, under these circumstances, the Commons could not assemble on Saturday to meet the Lords during the giving of the Royal assent to the Irish Coercion Bill, that ceremony had to be postponed to Monday, and disaffection in Ireland gained two days' exemption.

## IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.—FRIDAY, APRIL 1.

A bill was laid upon the table by the Marquis of Clanricarde to amend the bankruptcy law of Ireland by placing non-traders and traders in the same category.

The Peace Preservation (Ireland) Bill came up from the other House, and their Lordships agreed not to insist upon certain of their amendments which the Commons had disallowed.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.—FRIDAY, APRIL 1.

The House held a morning sitting, for the purpose of pushing on the Irish Land Bill in Committee. Before the principal business on the paper was proceeded with, however, several questions were brought under the notice of the House. Mr. Gladstone, in reply to one, said that, though the Lord Chancellor's bill related only to the transfer of land in England, it was under consideration by what means it could be extended to Ireland.

The Lords amendments on the Peace Preservation (Ireland) Bill were brought up for consideration. On the motion of Mr. Gladstone, they were agreed to, with the exception of one which, as it involved a question of taxation, was held to be an infringement of the privileges of the House of Commons.

The House then went into Committee on the Irish Land Bill. On clause 2, Mr. Gladstone moved the introduction of words at the commencement to the effect that any custom existing in any other part of Ireland than Ulster which was in spirit like to the Ulster custom should be legal. This was agreed to, and Mr. Gladstone said he would consent to the rest of the clause being struck out, as what the Government desired would be got by additions to clause 6. Sir John Gray moved to strike out that part of the clause which made the tender of a thirty-one years' lease a bar to action for compensation. This was negatived. Then a discussion arose on the point of order whether the clause could be struck out as proposed by Mr. Gladstone. Eventually this was agreed to, it being understood that the Government should bring up a new clause in the sense of the amendment which had been granted. On clause 3 a long discussion arose on a motion by Mr. Corrance, which sought to alter the clause in the sense that a tenant should not have compensation for eviction merely. This was negatived; and, after some further discussion, Mr. Fortescue moved the first of a series of amendments in the scale of compensation, proposing a distinction between compensation for eviction and compensation for improvements. Dr. Ball declared that this involved an entire change in the principle of the bill. Mr. Disraeli agreed with that view, and said if he had known of the intentions of the Government he should not have advised his friends not to resist the second reading of the bill. After some further discussion, progress was reported, and the sitting suspended.

Upon the House resuming, at nine o'clock, Mr. Fawcett moved, on going into Committee of Supply, that this House regards with satisfaction the memorial lately presented to the Prime Minister by the Provost, professors, tutors, and other authorities of Trinity College, Dublin, in favour of united or undenominational academical education in Ireland, and ex-

pressing the opinion of the House that it is expedient that the Government should immediately give effect to the prayer of the memorial. Mr. Plunket seconded the motion; and was followed by The O'Connor Don. Mr. Gladstone, in replying, characterised the apprehensions as to any intention of the Government to support Ultramontane ascendancy as chimerical. After some discussion, the adjournment of the debate was moved and negatived by 332 votes to 96. Again the adjournment was moved, and Mr. Gladstone acceded to it.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.—SATURDAY.

The House held a formal sitting, in order that the Royal assent might be given by Commission to the Peace Preservation (Ireland) Bill. By some oversight, however, the House of Commons had adjourned until Monday; and, as the Royal assent could not be given in the absence of the Lower House, their Lordships at once adjourned.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

The Royal assent was given by Commission to the Peace Preservation (Ireland) Bill, the Mutiny Bill, the Marine Mutiny Bill, and the Coinage Bill.

Lord Penzance, in moving for certain returns of the criminal sentences remitted or varied by the Home Secretary, raised the question of the policy which such revision involved—viz., of the ultimate appeal to the Home Office. The returns were not granted, and the present system was defended by the Lord Chancellor. The Duke of Richmond also was of opinion that the present system works well.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

## THE IRISH LAND BILL.

Some notices having been disposed of, Committee was resumed on the Irish Land Bill.

Mr. Disraeli moved the introduction of an amendment in clause 3, with the view of limiting the compensation to be paid under this clause to cases where it might be claimed for unexhausted improvements, or on account of interruption in the completion of any course of husbandry suited to the holding. The right hon. gentleman complained that after he and those with whom he acted had taken a large and liberal view of the difficulties and proposals of the Government, and had refrained from opposition to the second reading of the bill, the Government should, as soon as they got into Committee, have introduced amendments which totally changed the character of the measure. When he had placed upon the notice paper the amendment which he now moved, it was done simply with the view of removing a certain ambiguity in the phraseology of the clause. But at the last moment the Government had by a proposed amendment given an altogether novel character to the clause, and he now found his amendment, which had originally a secondary and insignificant application, in direct opposition to the principal portion of the clause.

Mr. Lowe said Mr. Disraeli had represented himself before the House and claimed their sympathy as a gentleman whose confidence had been grossly abused; but he must remind the right hon. gentleman that in giving his consent to the second reading of the bill he had distinctly guarded himself against being supposed to agree with its principles. As a matter of fact, the right hon. gentleman had never bestowed the confidence he regretted, and therefore the sympathy he asked for would be misplaced. The whole matter which had excited such unwonted emotion in the mind of the right hon. gentleman lay in the statement that, whereas the Government had originally proposed to do two things in one clause, they now suggested that they could better do these two things in two clauses.

Mr. Gathorne Hardy charged Mr. Lowe with inconsistency in retaining his seat in a Cabinet, the principal task of which was to redress grievances the existence of which he, two years ago, publicly denied. Returning to the question before the Committee, Mr. Hardy described the Government amended clause as creating a property in land which did not exist before, and as giving something to the tenant which it took from the landlord.

Sir Roundell Palmer said the bill did not take away property from anyone; it simply dictated upon what terms land should henceforward be held in Ireland. These terms were, however, of so extraordinary a character that they might be sanctioned only in case of absolute necessity, and they should not be carried a point further than absolute necessity demanded. Bonâ fide leases of seven years and tenancies of over £50 a year should be excluded from the operation of the Act, and he was of the opinion that under no circumstances should the fine for eviction equal seven years' rent. He thought that the prospective portion of the third clause would have the effect of raising the rent of land; for a landlord, when letting a farm for seven years, would keep in view the contingency of his tenant coming upon him on the termination of the lease for two years' rent by way of compensation on giving up his holding, and would protect himself by charging nine years' rent for the seven years' tenancy.

Mr. Chichester Fortescue pointed out the widely different terms under which tenancies are held in Ireland and in England, and urged that arguments such as those used by Sir Roundell Palmer, though powerful enough in connection with English land questions, did not apply to Ireland.

Mr. Read, Mr. Buxton, Mr. Brodrick, Sir Patrick O'Brien, Mr. Kavanagh, Mr. Matthews, Mr. Fowler, Mr. Bruen, Mr. Maguire, and Mr. Goldney having addressed the House,

Mr. Gladstone, speaking from the text of Sir Roundell Palmer's observations upon free contract, said it was impossible to say that the provision which abolished free contract in Ireland should continue for a certain number of years and then terminate; but it was possible, following the precedent of the Bank Charter Act, to add to the clause—and he suggested that it should be done—a stipulation that it should remain in force for twenty years and "thereafter, unless Parliament should otherwise determine." With respect to Mr. Disraeli's complaint that he had been driven to opposition, he feared that the right hon. gentleman had forgotten the words in which he gave his consent to the second reading. He then said that what he agreed with was the declaration in the title of the bill; and, as notice of the amendment he now moved had been given before Mr. Fortescue's motion was placed on the paper, Mr. Gladstone could not resist the conviction that the amendment was directed against the bill as it originally stood—a measure to which Mr. Disraeli now said he had given his cordial support. The course taken by the leader of the Opposition was an undisguised attempt to overthrow one of the main pillars of the original bill, for it asked the Committee to negative the principle of giving compensation to the tenant upon eviction, and to do so would be to strike a blow at the heart and life of the measure.

Mr. Disraeli, in replying, warned the Committee that they were now asked, for the first time in the history of Parliament, to lay down the principle that occupation should be treated as property, and urged that such a grave step should not be taken in the hasty legislation which was being pressed upon them. The House then divided, and the amendment was rejected by 296 against 220.

The Chairman was ordered to report progress.



## HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

The Duke of Marlborough gave notice that after Easter he will move a resolution in regard to the Government scheme of naval retirement.

The Ecclesiastical Patronage Transfer Bill was read the second time, and the Dublin Collector-General of Rates Franchise Bill was passed through Committee.

In reply to Lord Redesdale, Lord Lansdowne said £80,000 represented the entire cost of the public offices which could this year be completed on the Downing-street site.

On the motion of Lord Cadogan, papers were ordered in regard to the monument of the late Duke of Wellington in St. Paul's Cathedral.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

A morning sitting was held, at which several notices of motion were given. The Attorney-General gave notice of his intention to bring in a bill on Friday to disfranchise the boroughs of Bridgwater and Beverley.

The Committee on the Irish Land Bill was resumed, and Mr. Gladstone announced that the Government had decided to alter the terms of the amendment relative to compensation for loss of occupancy. They now proposed that the tenant should be entitled to compensation for the loss which the Court would find he had sustained in consequence of eviction. Mr. Chaplin, Mr. Walter, Lord John Manners, Mr. Henley, and Dr. Ball opposed the revised amendment; which was supported by Mr. Bernal Osborne and Mr. Delahunty, the latter of whom declared that, unless Parliament did justice to Ireland, they must at once repeal the Union, and leave the Irish nation to legislate for itself. After some further discussion, in which Mr. Chichester Fortescue, Mr. Gathorne Hardy, and Mr. Gladstone took part, the Committee divided, when the Government proposal was carried by a majority of 111—293 against 182.

The sitting was soon afterwards suspended.

When the House reassembled, at nine o'clock, Mr. P. Taylor moved for leave to bring in a bill to restore the ancient constitutional practice of paying members of Parliament. The motion having been seconded by Mr. Cowen, Mr. Gladstone contended that, looking at the whole of the circumstances of the time and the merits of the question conjointly, it was not desirable that the House should entertain the proposal. Mr. Hibbert thought that Mr. Taylor had commenced at the wrong end, and that, before proposing to pay members, he should clear the way by reducing the large expenditure attendant upon elections. The motion was also opposed by Mr. Cross, Lord Bury, and Mr. Collins, and rejected on a division by 211 to 24.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.—WEDNESDAY.

The Sites for Places of Worship Bill, the object of which is to give facilities for the acquisition of sites for places of worship and schools through the medium of the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act, put in force by a memorial to the Inclosure Commissioners, was read the second time.

Lord Enfield, with the consent of the Attorney-General, obtained a second reading of his Juries Bill, on the understanding that it is to be referred to a Select Committee.

Mr. Denman's bill for the further amendment of the law of evidence was passed through Committee; but a second measure of his—the Summary Convictions Bill—was opposed by the Attorney-General, and withdrawn.

The Attorneys and Solicitors' Remuneration Bill was again considered in Committee, and clauses 8 to 10 inclusive agreed to.

The Petty Customs (Scotland) Abolition Bill was passed through Committee.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

For a period of twenty minutes only were their Lordships engaged, on the expiration of which they separated without transacting any business of general importance.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

Mr. Gladstone gave notice that on Monday he would move for a Select Committee to inquire into the state of the law affecting persons who have been reported guilty of corrupt practices, and who are now members of Parliament; and to recommend what proceedings, if any, should be taken by the House with regard to those persons; and what alteration, if any, should be made in the law.

## THE IRISH LAND BILL.

The House went into Committee on this bill, resuming the consideration of clause 3. A long discussion took place on a point of order, by which several amendments were precluded from being brought forward; after which, Mr. Synan moved an amendment to the part of the clause which provides that in case of eviction from holdings not exceeding £10 value damages to the extent of seven years' rent may be given, substituting for "seven years" the words "ten years." Mr. Gladstone opposed the amendment, and proceeded to explain the views of the Government with respect to the objections of Sir R. Palmer and others. They would provide for free contracts after the provisions of the bill had been for a fixed number of years submitted to, and they would reduce the line from a £100 to £50 rental; but they did so with great reluctance. It had been suggested that they should reduce the duration of the term of leases to twenty-one years, as meeting the circumstances of the country; but he proposed to give the Court power to take into consideration, not only the amount of rent, but the length of the lease. They never contemplated that a thirty-one years' lease should exempt from the operation of the bill, but simply that the landlord should not be compelled, in the first instance, to apply to the Court for its approval in order to attain that end. Their object was to prevent the tenant refusing a fair lease, if offered to him, and then claiming compensation for seven years. They proposed to give the Court the fullest powers to consider all the circumstances and the proposal made on each side. He thought it was unnecessary to make any serious alteration in the scale of compensation as originally introduced in favour of the tenant, but it was intended to make a marked distinction between cases of payment for improvements and compensation for loss. It was intended to adhere to the scale as altered by Mr. Fortescue's amendment, which fixed tenancies of £30 at a five years' rent, and under that at seven years'. In cases where the tenant belonged to the smaller class of tenants who had made valuable improvements, he would retain his claim for them if he consented to reduce the number of years' compensation for damages from seven to five years or from five to four years.

Mr. G. Hardy said that Mr. C. Fortescue's amendment made considerable alterations in the bill, and met in some measure the objections to the original plan. Sir R. Palmer supported the clause and scale as it stood. Sir J. Gray said the bill seemed to him an elaborate scheme to induce the landlords to grant leases for thirty-one years. Mr. W. Hunt said if seven were struck out, he should move the insertion of a lower figure. Mr. Cogan, Mr. Downing, Mr. Kavanagh, Mr. O'Reilly, and The O'Donoghue continued the discussion.

The Committee divided—For the amendment, 50; against it, 245. Majority against Mr. Synan's amendment, 195.

Mr. Fortescue then moved the new scale for compensation, as follows:—For holdings above £10 and not exceeding £30 rent, a sum that shall not exceed five years' rent compensation; above £30 and not exceeding £40 value, a sum not exceeding four years' rent; above £40 and not exceeding £50, a sum not exceeding three years' rent; above £50 and not exceeding £100, a sum not exceeding two years' rent; and above £100, a sum not exceeding one year's rent. Mr. Fowler moved to leave out the classes above £50, thereby limiting compensation under this clause to holdings under that value. The Solicitor-General for Ireland opposed the amendment, which he contended was contrary to the spirit and principle of the bill, which had been ratified on the second reading. The bill was not to apply to small holdings, but to holdings generally. A discussion ensued, several Irish members contending that the amendment would be ill received in Ireland on account of its injustice. Lord C. Hamilton supported the amendment. Sir R. Palmer supported the amendment on the ground that there appeared no just reason for including the superior class of holdings. Mr. Kavanagh and Lord St. Lawrence also supported the amendment. After a lengthened discussion, the Committee divided; when the numbers were—for the amendment, 218; against it, 250; majority, 32. The announcement was received with loud Ministerial cheers.

The Chairman then reported progress and obtained leave to sit again.

## MUSIC.

## THE OPERA.

"Lucia di Lammermoor" has been twice repeated since our last week's notice of the opening of the Royal Italian Opera, and Mlle. Sessi's performance as the heroine has been received with a repetition of the favour then accorded to it. Of her merits and qualifications we shall soon have occasion again to speak in other representations. Herr Wachtel has essayed a character of much greater musical and dramatic importance than that of Edgardo, in which he reappeared (after four years' interval) on the occasion just referred to. Raoul, in Meyerbeer's "Huguenots," is one of those heroes of grand opera which require a stage singer of exceptional powers and acquirements for their adequate representation. The extreme high range of the tenor voice (C and C sharp) are called into requisition in the music of Raoul, unless a transposition of key be resorted to. Such a voice is rarely capable of sustaining, uninjured, the wear and tear of stage use in its extreme compass, and rarely, too, is so scarce a natural gift combined with such high cultivation of vocal and dramatic art as is required in characters like that referred to. Such a combination has indeed been realised within very recent memory at the Royal Italian Opera, but it would be unjust and unreasonable to hold up a standard of comparison which can but seldom be attained. If we are to wait for such rarities, we must be content to forego all representations of works like the "Huguenots," the "Prophète," "Tell," &c. Herr Wachtel's performance as Raoul was an improvement on that of Edgardo, on which we commented last week. His voice wants the sympathetic quality and his style the genial grace requisite for love strains, but possesses a penetrating power, especially in the higher chest notes, which he commands in an unusual degree, that enables him to give much effect to passages requiring energy and passionate declamation. Hence he was more successful in the duel septet and in the demonstrative portions of the great duet with Valentina than in the romance of the first act, the duet with Marguerite, and other such instances. Altogether, the Raoul of Herr Wachtel, notwithstanding its many inequalities, met with more approval from the audience, and has left a better impression, than the performance in which he made his reappearance. Of the high dramatic and vocal power displayed in the Valentina of Mlle. Titiens—one of her best and most familiar representations—it is only necessary to say that the effect was equal to that of many previous occasions. The reappearance of this favourite artist was warmly welcomed, and each of her efforts enthusiastically applauded, especially in the two great duets, that with Marcel and that with Raoul. Madame Vanzini was moderately successful in the graceful music of Marguerite de Valois; and Mlle. Scalchi sang that of the Page, as she did last year, with excellent quality of voice and good style. That clever dramatic singer, M. Petit, was the Count de St. Bris; Marcel and De Nevers having, as before, found efficient representatives in Signori Baggiolo and Cotogni; other portions of the cast having been likewise as formerly. Signor Vianesi, the new conductor, again evinced skill and experience in his office.

At the second concert of the Philharmonic Society, last week, Herr Joachim played his "Hungarian" concerto, which had not been heard here since 1863, when it was performed by him at one of the concerts of the defunct Musical Society of London; its first hearing, also at the hands of its composer, having been in 1859 at a Philharmonic concert. The work is laid out on the most ample scale, each of its three movements being of extreme length, and all partaking largely of those national and rhythmical characteristics which are implied by the title. There is some bold and ambitious writing in the orchestral tutti, while the solo passages are written with that consummate knowledge of the instrument and that acquaintance with all its manifold difficulties which might be expected from so great a master. Perhaps the most effective portions are the intermediate romance and the finale "Alla Zingara." In the former, the player's powers of expression were effectively contrasted with the brilliancy of his bravura playing in the first and third movements. The applause which followed the close of the concerto was a just and inevitable tribute to the exhibition of such rare skill. The orchestral performances were Mozart's symphony in D—that with a minuet and trio, known as the "Haffner" symphony—Beethoven's No. 8 in F, Mendelssohn's overture "Ruy Blas," and Mr. Macfarren's "Chevy-Chase;" all capably played, and the first-named overture repeated in answer to general demand. The vocalists were Mme. Osborne Williams and Miss Kaathrine Poyntz.

The second of the New Philharmonic concerts took place on Wednesday, when the programme included two concertos—Viotti's in A minor for violin, and Mozart's in D minor for pianoforte. The executant in the first case was Madame Norman-Néruda; in the second, Herr Carl Reinecke. The brilliant and finished performances of the lady-violonist have so often and so recently been eulogised by us that it is scarcely requisite now to say how finely she played Viotti's concerto; besides which she gave a solo by Rust. Of the classical playing of the director of the celebrated "Gewandhaus" concerts of Leipzig we spoke in high terms on the occasion of his last year's visit to London, and have again to recognise the same cultivated style and mechanism. Beethoven's symphony in A (No. 7), Schubert's "Italian" overture, and Weber's to "Abu Hassan," with vocal solos by Madame Patey, completed an excellent and interesting programme. The fine orchestra, conducted by Dr. Wylde, was as effective as usual.

This week's Monday Popular Concert (the last but one of the season) was appropriated to the benefit of Madame Arabella Goddard, who has been so eminently identified with these entertainments from their commencement, twelve years since. Her solo on the occasion was Schubert's exquisitely beautiful and imaginative fantasie-sonata in G (op. 78). In this, in Professor Sterndale Bennett's pianoforte trio, and in Beethoven's "Kreutzer" sonata, Madame Goddard displayed those high executive powers and that finished style which have been before, but never more notably, applied to the interpretation of the same music. In the duet-sonata of Beethoven and in the leading part of Mendelssohn's violin quintet in A Herr Joachim surpassed himself, if such a feat be possible.

Bach's "Passion-Music," after the Gospel of St. Matthew, was revived, on Wednesday evening, at the sixth of the Oratorio Concerts, which was held in Exeter Hall instead of, as usual, in St. James's Hall. Want of space compels us to defer a detailed notice of this sublime work and its successful performance until next week.

Miss Louisa Pyne is about to retire from public life, and will appear at four farewell oratorio performances under the direction of the National Choral Society. The first of the series will be "The Messiah," to be given on Tuesday next, at St. James's Hall, conducted by Mr. G. W. Martin.

## THE THEATRES.

The usual lull at this season of the year has prevented anything like dramatic enterprise, and managers have acted on the reserve, preferring not to anticipate their Easter novelties.

A farce by Mr. G. F. Rowe, whose reputation has been established by his impersonation of Micawber at the Olympic, has been produced at the Lyceum and received with approbation. It is entitled "Sampson's Wedding."

A new burlesque, by Mr. F. C. Burnand, has been produced at the Strand, entitled "Sir George and a Dragon; or, We are Seven." The materials are, as usual, the famous champions of Christendom, suffering from the enchantments of Kalyba. Sir George wins the Princess Sabea, after many difficulties. Allusions are made to the Suez Canal and other matters, and numerous parodies are introduced, which, with the breakdowns, found favour with the audience. Miss Kate Santley made her debut here as Sabea. Other new acquisitions also appeared; and, altogether, a goodly array of handsome damsels is pressed into the service of the new burlesque. The costumes and scenery are good.

We regret to record the sudden death of Mr. Edmund Phelps, yesterday week, at Edinburgh, where he was fulfilling an engagement, with Miss Marriott, at the Theatre Royal. He fell while walking through the city, and died instantaneously.

## THE INTER-UNIVERSITY BOAT-RACE.

This week is the one annually dedicated to "war to the knife" between the sister Universities, and rowing, running, and billiards have all assumed a very blue tint. Fortunately, the sky has been thoroughly in harmony with the prevailing colour, so all the contests were most enjoyable. We have had a complete change in the usual order of affairs. The "turn of the tide" for which the Cambridge men have waited so long has come at last, and they have made a successful trip from Putney to Mortlake; while the light blues, usually so triumphant on the running-path, could make no fight at all at Lillie Bridge.

"Time and tide wait for no man," so the boat-race took place on Wednesday instead of on the stereotyped Saturday. It was set for five o'clock; but for hours before that time a stream of people set in Putneywards. We got over Hammersmith Bridge pretty easily; once on the towing-path, however, we were soon convinced that the crowd was larger than ever. It struck us also that the spectators were of a lower class than usual, though, possibly, it was only that there was a great increase in the rougher element. The stands, which were all crowded, extended further towards Barnes than they have previously done, and here and there some scattered planks and uprights told a sad tale of disaster, and served as traps for the unwary. Everyone expressed a hope that Cambridge would win; but by no means everyone donned the light blue, and we fear the ladies will always show a marked preference for the darker colour, as being far less trying to the complexion. The sale of rosettes, illustrations of the crews, nuts and oranges, &c., seemed to be brisker than ever, and, altogether, the whole scene is getting very like a huge fair.

Oxford won the toss, and, contrary to all precedent, chose the Surrey side. This was done with an idea of getting the full benefit of the tide; but, as the Middlesex station is acknowledged to give an advantage of upwards of a length, the wisdom of the step was very questionable. At any rate, we do not fancy that a crew losing the toss will ever obtain this station again. Just before the start the betting was about even, Oxford for choice. They got off very wildly, but on settling down, Cambridge at once took the lead, though it was only rowing thirty-eight strokes to the minute, against Oxford's thirty-nine. Here again was a complete change in the usual order of affairs. Odds of 3 to 2 were now laid on Cambridge, though, after passing Craven Cottage, the light blue coxswain took a bad course, and Oxford began to make up its leeway. When, however, Gordon got his boat right again, Goldie put on a capital spurt, and shot Hammersmith Bridge with an advantage of fully half a length. At this point Gordon again got wrong, and, as Darbshire took full advantage of his mistake, Oxford drew up, and were nearly level at the Waterworks. The odds then veered round, and 3 to 2 was offered on the dark blues. Off Chiswick Church Cambridge were still slightly in front, and we had no doubt of the result; for, though Oxford were rowing forty strokes against thirty-eight, they could not gain ground. Darbshire was still in grand form; but Benson and Lewis were doing no work, and there was a good deal of splashing and unsteadiness in the boat; while the Cambridge men were going like a piece of machinery and well within themselves. Passing under Barnes Bridge, Cambridge were first clear; and, in spite of the desperate efforts of their opponents, won by two lengths, after one of the grandest races ever seen.

The result hardly excited the enthusiasm that we should have expected. Certainly the Cambridge men, who immediately turned round and paddled back to Putney, were immensely cheered; but Oxford received an almost equal share of applause, and people seemed hardly able to realise the fact that the "invincibles" had succumbed at last. The light blues, on landing at Putney, seemed almost unable to contain their delight; while Darbshire looked proportionately gloomy. However, Oxford can well afford to suffer defeat. The result is a wonderful triumph for Mr. George Morrison, who, after successfully coaching Oxford for several years, has brought Cambridge in victoriously at the second time of asking. The annual dinner took place after the race, at Willis's Rooms—the Hon. G. Denman presiding.



## BURMESE COSTUMES.

The Burmese ladies and gentleman whose portraits, with that of the gentleman's servant, figure among our Illustrations, are fashionably attired in the usual costume of persons of good social rank. The chief article of female dress is the tamine, a scanty strip of silk, or cotton, encircling the waist and hanging down as a close-fitting skirt. The portion of this garment covering the chest is of a different colour, generally dark red; but unmarried women have a tight bodice, adorned with many buttons. Over the tamine is a jacket of coloured muslin, gauze, or cotton, with long tight sleeves, gathered up into folds at the wrists. These ladies are very proud of their long black hair, but often wear false hair; they adorn themselves with gold chains, necklaces, and rings, and with cylinders of gold stuck in holes in their ears. They live as free from conventional restraint as the women of any European nation.

The Burmese gentleman is a "Loagye," which means any person of wealth or rank, or official or professional distinction. The attendant of such a person always waits upon him kneeling. The Tartar origin of the Burmese is shown by his peculiar complexion, expanded nostril, prominent mouth, and high cheek-bone; he is strongly built and muscular, with broad, deep chest. Everyone is more or less tattooed, in his childhood, with blue or red figures of monsters, tigers, or snakes—a painful operation done while under the influence of opium; these marks are considered a sign of manhood. The dress is rather costly; its most important article, the "putzo," or waistcloth, being sometimes bought for £25. It is wound about the loins, and falls in graceful folds to the knees. The putzo is occasionally made useful in many ways, like a Highlander's plaid, serving at need either to cover the head and chest against rain or a scorching sun, or to form a bag for the carriage of rice, a cradle for the baby, a mosquito-curtain for the bed at night, a sail for a canoe on the river, or even for suicide by strangulation. The Burmese gentleman also wears a cloth jacket like a lady's mantle, with very tight sleeves, and a cotton under-vest; his long, well-oiled hair

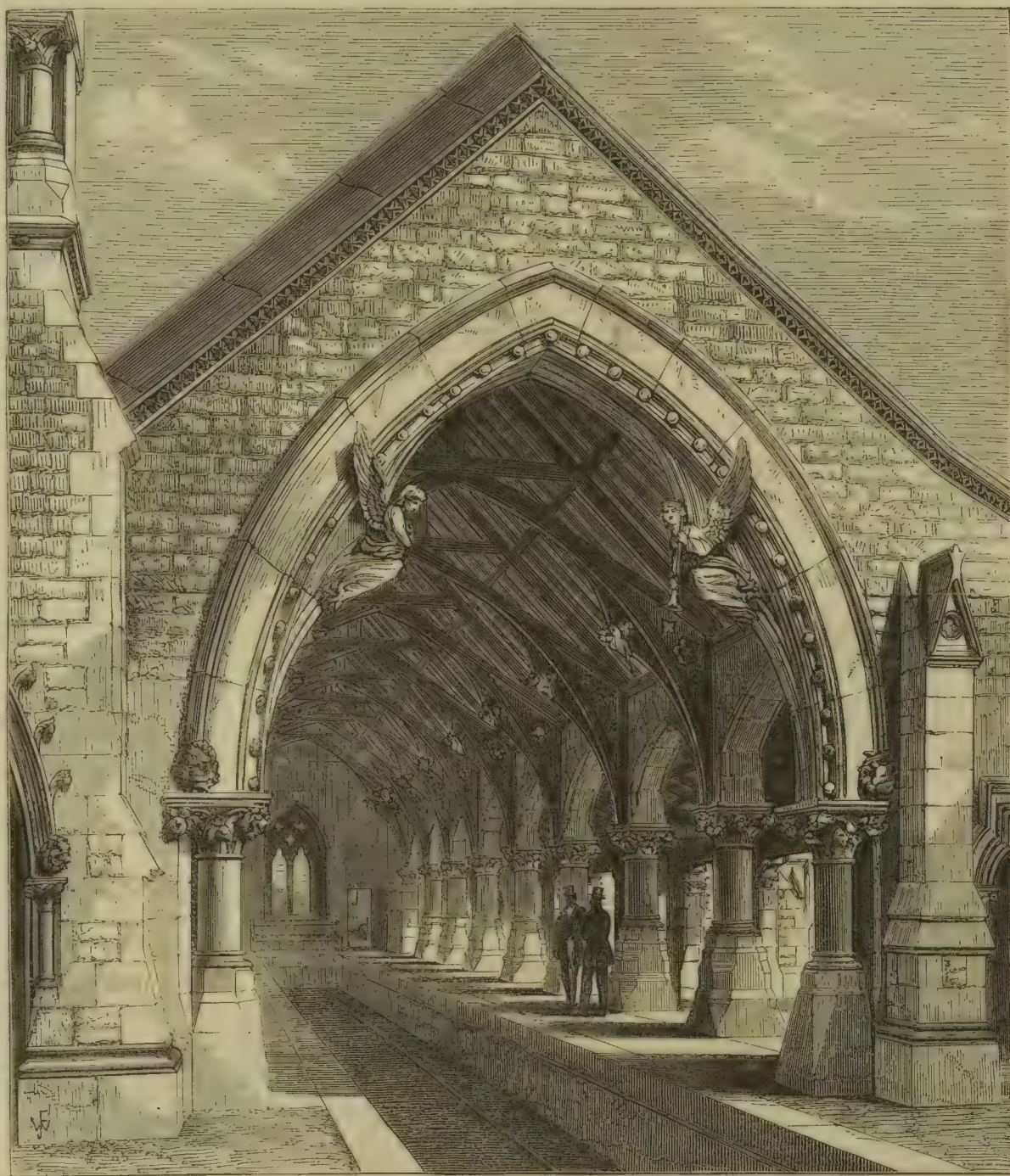
is gathered in a top-knot, and his head is wrapped in a piece of clean muslin, or a silk handkerchief, with the ends jauntily projecting. Gold jewels of a cylindrical shape, set with emeralds, rubies, or pearls, are placed in the large holes, two

or three fingers' breadth wide, pierced through the gristle of his ears, in which he sometimes puts a bunch of flowers, a roll of gold-leaf, or the last letter of a friend. He has a silver box of betel-nut to chew, and a sort of châteline furnished with tweezers, knives, and other little implements. The Loagye is quite a dandy, but a pleasant, good-humoured, hospitable fellow.

## THE NECROPOLIS OF SYDNEY.

The Redfern Cemetery of the metropolis of New South Wales is a piece of ground, 200 acres in extent, ten miles from the city, near the Haslem's Creek station of the Newtown railway line. Its space is divided amongst the six principal religious denominations, in proportion to their numbers, reserving a portion for the interment of persons not attached to any Church, and another portion of eight acres, near the middle of the ground, on which has been erected the mortuary terminus. The latter reserve is circular in form, and is divided from the burial-grounds of the several denominations by a broad pathway. Possession of these eight acres is retained by the Government, and they will be suitably laid out and planted. The purpose of the building here erected is the reception of funerals of persons of all denominations indiscriminately; but it is a part of the original design that the various denominational "mortuary chapels" should be erected near the edge of the circular reserve, each opposite its respective ground, so as to afford during inclement weather accommodation for the funeral service according to their particular views. It is also intended that the building shall be open at all times to visitors to the necropolis, giving them shelter and rest with the refreshment of a draught of water.

The branch railway station of the Redfern Cemetery, where the funeral trains come in to deposit their charges, is a handsome Gothic building, designed, as well as the mortuary chapel, by Mr. James Barnett, colonial architect, of New South Wales. It comprises a waiting-room and ladies' retiring-room, with lavatories and other conveniences. The entrance-arch, supported on pillars with carved capitals,



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SKETCHES FROM IRELAND.



INTERIOR OF A MUD CABIN AT KILDARE.



COTTAGERS AT KILDARE.



## NEW GENERAL POST-OFFICE BUILDINGS.

The foundations are now being dug, at the corner of Newgate-street and St. Martin's-le-Grand, opposite the present building of the General Post Office, for a spacious and stately edifice, the design of which, by Mr. Williams, is represented in one of our Engravings. It will provide accommodation for the telegraph business, lately taken in hand by the Government; the registered-letter business, now transacted at the Chief Office, on the opposite side of the street; the Money-Order Department, which has till now been located at No. 1, Aldersgate-street; and the Savings-Bank Department, which is to be removed from No. 27, St. Paul's-churchyard; besides a suite of official apartments for the Postmaster-General, his private secretary, and his staff, including reception-rooms; and likewise suitable offices for the Secretaries to the Post Office and for the Receiver and Accountant-General, with his staff. The business of the Circulation Department will remain in the present building; but the basement of the new building will contain two steam-engines for working the pneumatic tubes, by which mails are sent to or from the London district offices and several of the railway stations. It may be interesting upon this occasion to notice some features of the recent development of Post-Office business in the United Kingdom.

Thirty years have passed since the practical commencement of the reforms proposed and partly worked out by Sir Rowland Hill. The Treasury minute, dated Jan. 10, 1840, ordering the adoption of a uniform penny postage, was confirmed by an Act of Parliament, which received the Royal assent on Aug. 10 of the same year. The appointment given to Mr. Hill by Lord Melbourne's Ministry, in order that he might personally assist in carrying the new system into execution, was taken away from him, after two years, by the Government of Sir Robert Peel; and he was only in 1846, when the Liberals returned to power, appointed Secretary to the Postmaster-General, and Secretary to the Post Office in 1854. It was not, therefore, till several years after the introduction of his first reform, a uniform and low rate of postage for letters, that his other proposals, which were not less important, for increased speed and frequency both in the dispatch and delivery of letters, as well as for simplifying, harmonising, and economising the operations of the Post Office, began to be put in execution. The merit of having promoted some of the most valuable of those improvements is due more especially to the late Lord Canning and the Duke of Argyll, Postmasters-General during Lord Palmerston's Government from 1855 to 1858; and to the Earl of Elgin and Lord Stanley of Alderley, who held the same post, likewise as Cabinet Ministers, in Lord Palmerston's second Administration, from 1859 to 1866. The Conservative party has little cause to be proud of any achievements in this department.

The inquiry by the Select Committee of the House of Commons, in 1842, showed that Mr. Hill's plans had then been executed but very partially and imperfectly, which accounted for the want of financial success, though the number of letters had increased three-fold, and the amount of money orders four-fold, since the reduction of charges. Prepayment by affixed postage-stamps, the establishment of day-mails on the principal railway lines, two additional deliveries of letters in London, and a diminution of the rates of foreign and colonial postage, were, indeed, in operation. But Mr. Hill also recommended the establishment of railway post-offices and steam-packet post-offices, in which the sorting of letters could be done on the journey; the multiplication of rural and town district post-offices; the cheap registration of letters; the provision of a book and parcel post; the charge of a double rate on unpaid letters, as an inducement to prepay; the adoption of certain methods to facilitate sorting, and to lessen the number of hands so employed; the division of London into districts, with an hourly delivery, in London, throughout the day; the union of the two services of general postmen, in London, and London district postmen; with other improvements, which were neglected for some time. The book post was set up in 1848; the two classes of letter-carriers in London, one dressed in red, the other in blue, were amalgamated in 1855; the ten postal districts of the metropolis, each having its own centre for sorting and distributing letters addressed within the district, and not sending them to St. Martin's-le-Grand, were established in 1856. The system last-mentioned has lately been applied to Liverpool and Manchester, and other great provincial towns. Receiving-houses and pillar letter-boxes now facilitate the collection. The Money-Order Office was remodelled in 1859, and has been extended to the British colonies, and to France; the Post-Office Savings Banks were started in 1861. The fee for the registration of letters or packets has been reduced to 1d. The postage of books, newspapers, patterns, and parcels, is to be further reduced. The morning mails, mid-day mails, and night mails, have brought several daily deliveries to many large towns, while every little village has been accommodated with its own post-office. The travelling post-offices on the railways, first tried in 1838, have been vastly improved, and furnished with mechanical contrivances to pick up or drop their mail-bags in passing at full speed. The steam-packet service, as well that of the ocean lines as of St. George's and the British Channel, has been reequipped with liberal payments. In negotiating contracts with the various companies, and postal conventions with foreign States, the Government has constantly employed itself to extend the advantages of our post-office system. Though it be not yet perfect, we scarcely know anything better managed. It may be hoped that the working of the telegraphs, now added to its multiplicity of business, will not prove an exception.

More than 800,000,000 letters are yearly delivered in the United Kingdom; more than 100,000,000 newspapers, books, or pattern packets;—and how many of them ever go wrong? The number of returned letters, which are addressed to persons who cannot be found, is less than 4,000,000, and most of them get back to their writers. The amount of nearly £20,000,000 sterling is sent through the post by money orders during the twelvemonth; and foreign money orders to the amount of £500,000 are paid in this country. No bank could transmit the payments with more safety or with equal dispatch and convenience. There are 1,000,000 depositors, holding £12,000,000 sterling of hoarded savings in the Post-Office Savings Banks, which deserve our particular notice. These admirable institutions, first suggested ten years since by Mr. Sykes, of Huddersfield, and created without delay by Mr. Gladstone, numbered 3800 at the beginning of 1869, doing almost as much business as all the other savings-banks together. They are open eight hours daily, receiving any deposits of not less than 1s., but not more than £30 from the same person in one year, or more than £150 in all. The interest allowed is just what the Government can afford without loss; but the security is perfect; and the working classes are wiser than the middle classes in choosing low interest for their money with good security, rather than bad security with a high rate of interest or profit. It is not, perhaps, generally known that every particular transaction, to the smallest amount, the deposit of half a crown, or notice of the withdrawal of eighteen pence, goes up by the next post to the chief office in St. Martin's-le-Grand, from the remotest village in the country, where a labourer or a maid-servant intrusts the

Postmaster-General with the keeping of a little store of their wages. This consideration, we imagine, gives a high degree of moral and social interest to the fine new building about to be erected for the Savings Banks and other departments of the General Post Office.

The building has frontages of 286 ft. to St. Martin's-le-Grand and Bath-street, and frontages of 144 ft. to Newgate-street and Angel-street. It will stand on a base of granite from quarries in Cornwall, 4 ft. above the ground line, and all four fronts will be faced with Portland stone. The height of the building will be 84 ft. from the paving line to the top of the balustrade. The rooms on the basement floor will be 15 ft. in height. They will be appropriated partly to official purposes and partly to stores. There will also be a room, 50 ft. by 67 ft., for galvanic or electric batteries in connection with the telegraph instruments; likewise accommodation for two steam-engines for working the pneumatic tubes. On the ground floor will be a large public office, 79 ft. in length, 52 ft. in width, and 34 ft. in height, in which the Money-Order, Savings-Bank, registered letter, and Telegraph business will be conducted. Rooms will be provided, as we have stated, for the Postmaster-General and his private secretary, and for receptions; the remainder of the floor being appropriated to the Accountant-General and his staff. On the first floor rooms will be provided for the Secretaries and their respective departments. The second floor will be occupied by the Savings Bank and Money-Order departments. The third floor will be entirely given up to the Telegraph department; the largest room (131 ft. by 79 ft.) being intended for the provincial instrument-room. The corridors throughout will be 10 ft. in width, paved with Yorkshire stone. The building will be constructed on the fire-proof principle. The contract for the building has been taken by Mr. Brass, of Old-street, St. Luke's, for £129,718, to be completed by Christmas, 1871.

## SKETCHES FROM IRELAND.

In the letter of our Special Correspondent in Ireland, which was published in last week's Paper, he described the miserable condition of a number of mud cabins in the principal street of Kildare, visited by him in company with our Special Artist. We now present two Engravings from the sketches then made—one showing the interior of such an Irish home, the other giving a fair notion of the appearance of the people as they lounge in listless despondency about the village. It was stated, our readers will perhaps recollect, that in a dwelling which consisted of a single room, eight feet by ten in size, lived a widow, with a grown-up son twenty years of age, another son, of sixteen, and a daughter, of ten years. They had no bedstead or bedding, but slept in their clothes on the bare ground, with a few dirty rags over them. The only furniture was a rickety table and a broken bench, with an iron pot and kettle and two or three cups. Our Correspondent further writes:—

"Save that it actually has a chimney and a comparatively lofty roof, blackened, however, by a century of smoke, and that it accommodates at night simply a donkey instead of the customary pig, this is about as bad a specimen of an Irish cabin as could be found in any village in the county. There were puddles of water in different places on the mud floor, and the planks of the door very nearly tumbled apart every time it opened or shut. The widow who occupied the cabin, although in rags and with bare legs and feet, was a person of some intelligence, who had a good choice of language, and had taught her children to read, if not to write as well; her idea being "there was nothing like education to get on in the world." Getting on, from this poor creature's point of view, was, no doubt, limited to a certain and sufficient supply of food and fuel all the year round. The rent of this hovel of hers, which before the establishment of the Curragh Camp, only a few miles distant, was 4d. per week merely, has since been increased to 10d. The Irish peasant may well be dissatisfied with his condition when he has to pay £2 3s. 4d. per annum for a bare shelter from the elements; and after the rate, as was found to be the case in Meath, of £7 the Irish acre (equal to one and two thirds English) for the patch of land on which he rears his crop of potatoes, which are still the staple article of food."

This is one of the forty-two families at Kildare, numbering 152 persons, all tenants of the Duke of Leinster, to whose position our Correspondent referred. He found the people of the neighbourhood excited by a rumour, which proves to have been unfounded, that they were about to be evicted by the Duke's agent; but he bore testimony to the general reputation of the Duke as one of the best landlords in Ireland. We have much satisfaction, therefore, in publishing the subjoined letter which we have received from the Earl of Kildare, explaining the real state of affairs:—

Carton, Maynooth, April 2, 1870.

Sir,—In the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS of this date is a communication from your Special Correspondent, under the heading "Ireland," in which he alludes to some alleged intended evictions on the Duke of Leinster's property in the town of Kildare. As some of his statements have already been explained in the public press, I beg only to inform you that the lease under which the cabins alluded to were held was granted, in 1744, for the term of three lives, and, on the expiration of these, of one in reversion. The last life expired a short time ago. Your Correspondent has truly described the state of the cabins; and I appeal to you whether the Duke is not justified in endeavouring to improve that part of his property as soon as possible. He has no intention of evicting any of the inhabitants; and the only step that has been taken was to send his bailiff (not the agent's "coachman") to inquire which of them would be willing to give up at once his cabin on receiving compensation.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant, KILDARE.

Our second Illustration represents a few of the occupants of these miserable cabins—tenants of the largest landed proprietor and best landlord in all Ireland, it is said. The women and children must speak for themselves, as no inquiries were made respecting them; but the old man seated beside them, and who is upwards of eighty years of age, was born on the property, and remembered the cabins as they now are when a boy. His condition is, no doubt, a sufficiently forlorn one, as he described himself as being "only a lodger." The young man standing next to him is the eldest son of the widow already spoken of, and the other old man at the extreme right of the Engraving is a poor debilitated-looking creature, with hacking cough and glassy eyes, and having death at no remote period plainly written in his countenance. The cabin occupied by him contained two rooms, and, save its sleeping accommodation, which was alike rude and unclean, was tidily enough furnished of its kind.

The other sketch by our Artist engraved for this Number shows the troops in the yard of the Kells Union Workhouse, having been sent there to keep the peace, on account of the agrarian murders and outrages in that part of Meath. This subject was likewise noticed by our Special Correspondent last week. The detachment arriving at Kells, after a long day's

march, the arrangements for its reception were complete, and the soldiers were obliged to till temporary quarters were prepared.

## THE FRENCH

Our first impression is that it scarcely reaches years—an impression of large works of comparison, examination, however, our estimation, owing to the pictures and the number. As is the case of foreign works where proportion of the most conviction soon forces itself. Continental schools are in a measure to the tasteful order of qualities. The results are more complete method inference to be drawn—of restating it—is faults in our English system Academy and elsewhere.

On the other hand, marked change of Continental attention in our notice Academy exhibition. The fountain-head of its influence is enough in this exhibition. Delacroix, Ingres, Flan- of painters has arisen, of affording sensuous thought, invention, or a purpose, or of an elevated workmanship is all generally put themselves man-milliner, the upholders of historical works) than Imperialism. The taste most of the illustration classical life which so life is beginning to be. The charge of choosing brought against our own on our neighbours. to speak, material of the first stage of luxury be hard for French painters is manly and elevating influences around them.

A preceding observation which satisfies so many pictures by the eminently titled "Nonchalant." Both represent receptivity in each; but, beyond absolutely devoid of humanity. In the first, a lady pays asleep on a sofa. In the with empressment by ever, these subjects, such figure and interior painting may be thought to prove everything but objective triumph may be brought. Nevertheless, we contentment would not only have they would have prevailed on seeing precisely head of an idiot. express our intense of colouring and expression sleeping, with a Japanese shadow over her face silk-and-muslin dress in shawl of the visitor is the latter is a superb piece the flesh-painting is no combination of cool grey an amber portiere. Gerome's group of children, we are reminded that luscious quality of has always preserved the Gerome's colour is brilliant manual imitation of the sumptuous Oriental colour Meissonier's "Qui va Guard" (55), are, like hand, "studies of the properly so called. Y representation carried group (86), from the eyeing with pity a stolen ing. Ary Scheffer's "Christ Weeping over for this exhibition.

Turning from the some works by artists first, or nearly the first Saintin's "Treasured young lady in deep letters, has, despite the touch of natural feeling pictures of the same excellent: the fair child behind are lovely in effect in the swelling throat, will form, which touches scene (192) of the sep niece, Maria Theresa, is a powerfully-conceived dramatic intensity to escaping that pitfall. pleasant silvery key, duction of a rustic sister, grown apart from delightfully simple and (60), by M. Worms, has or super-obvious, and (77) of character by showing a party of Pompeii. Another picture Heilbuth, representing liveried footmen, dei-























